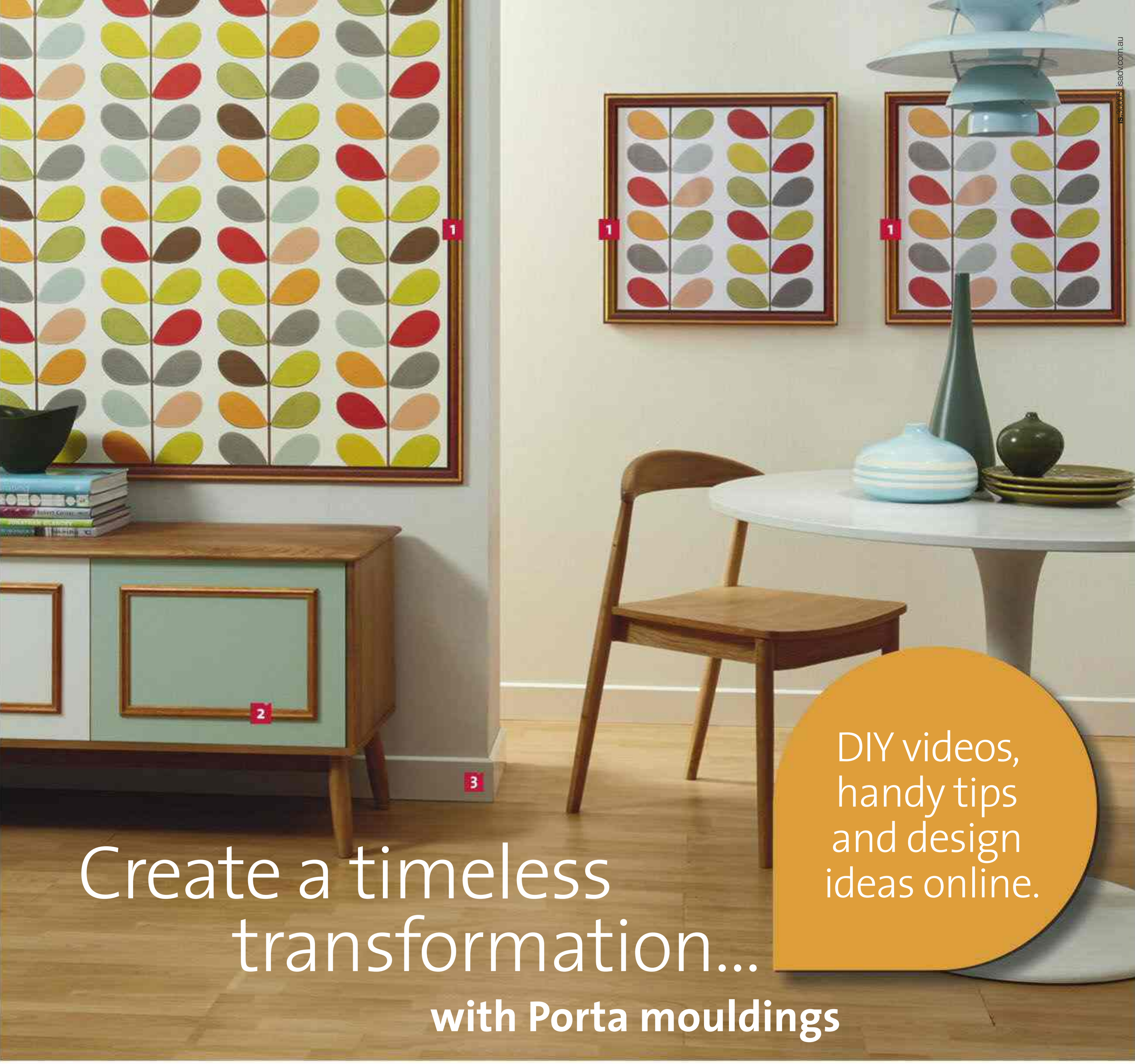
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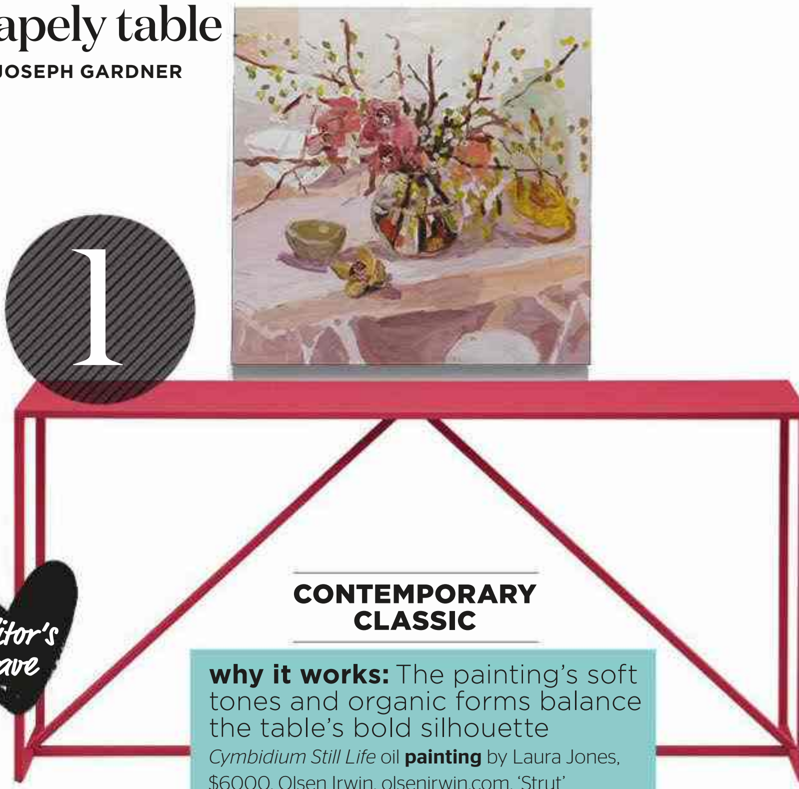
art & console

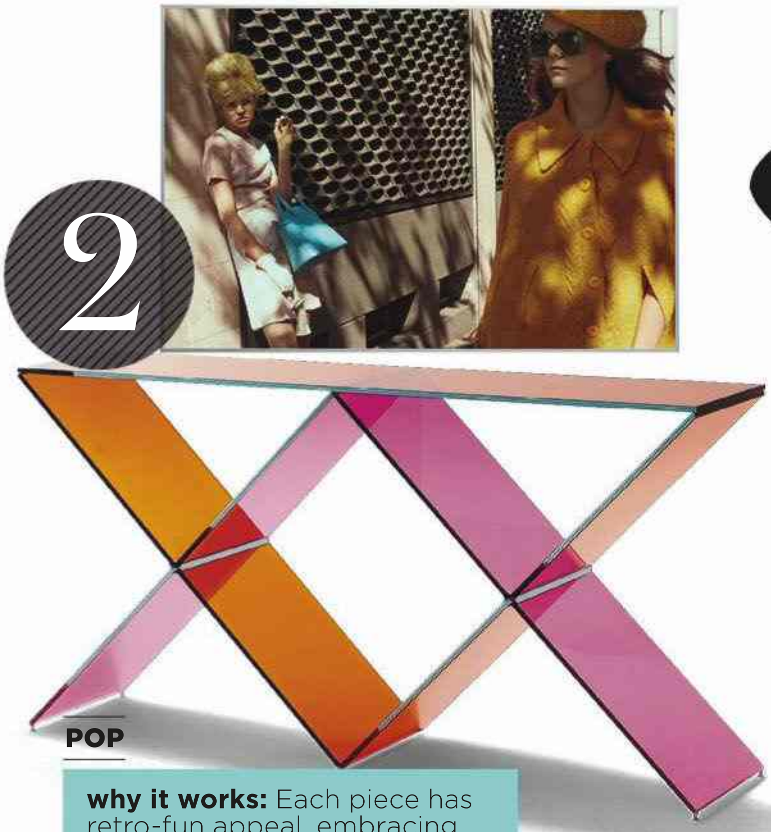
Some pieces belong together. Here's our take on an artwork with a shapely table

COMPILED BY **JOSEPH GARDNER**



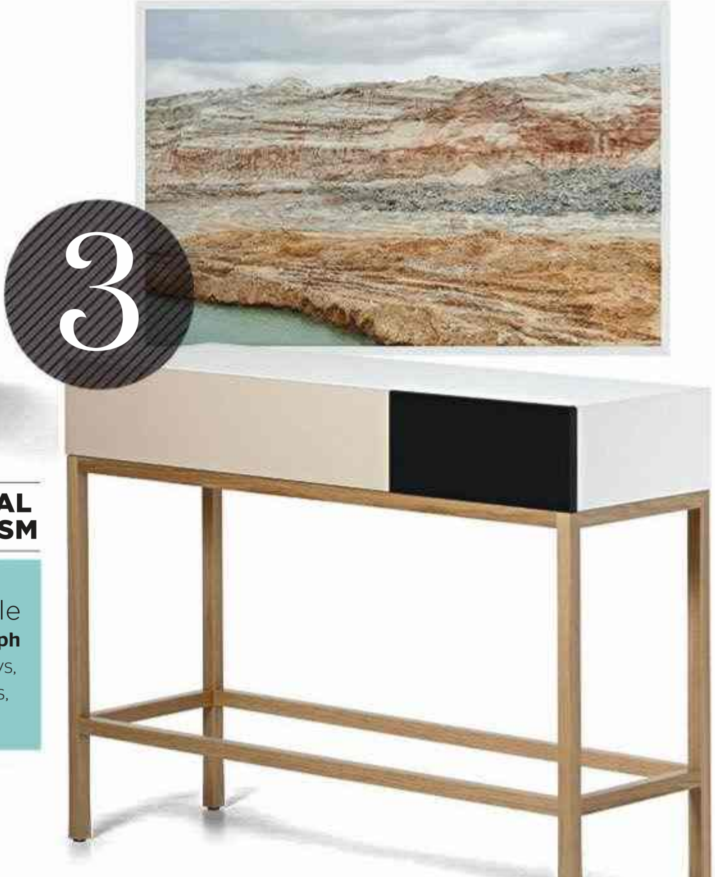
CONTEMPORARY CLASSIC

why it works: The painting's soft tones and organic forms balance the table's bold silhouette *Cymbidium Still Life* oil **painting** by Laura Jones, $6000, Olsen Irwin, olsenirwin.com. 'Strut' **console table**, $799, Blu Dot, bludot.com.au.



POP

why it works: Each piece has retro-fun appeal, embracing bright colour *Untitled 1* **photograph** by Juli Balla, $2800 (framed), Becker Minty, beckerminty.com. Glas Italia 'XX' **console**, $9760, Space Furniture, spacefurniture.com.au.



PRACTICAL MINIMALISM

why it works: Both elements feature neutral tones in a simple yet graphic way 'Sans P2 3' **photograph** by Dan Hocking, from $1870 (unframed), Otomys, otomys.com. 'Tribute' **console** with two drawers, $3200, Zuster, zuster.com.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (TOP LEFT) PRUE RUSCOE. STYLING: (TOP LEFT) KIRSTEN BOOKALLIL

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DESIGN PROFILE

Stephen Roy

When he's not working as an Adelaide hospital nurse, this designer is creating pieces that are attracting acclaim

WORDS **LEE TRAN LAM**

The usability of his products is a key consideration for designer Stephen Roy **(inset)**. His body of work features everything from furniture and accessories to lighting, including the 'Roy' picnic set **(above)**, 'Ande' coat rack **(top)**, 'OneSixth' wall clock **(top right)**. 'Byros' chair **(right)**, 'Hansha' stools **(below)**, and 'Callisto' light **(bottom)**.

Were you creative as a kid? Growing up in rural South Australia, I was surrounded with opportunities to work with my hands. As a teenager, I restored vintage motorcycles with my dad, made some terrible furniture and stood in front of our lathe, turning my mum (another) candlestick holder or bowl for Mother's Day.

Tell us about your workspace. I'm lucky enough to be working out of JamFactory in Adelaide. I'm in my final year of a two-year associateship there. I work alongside an extremely talented group of emerging designers under the guidance of Jon Goulder.

Do you have a lot of finished furniture at home, or is everything a work in progress? It's a mix for me. A lot of the pieces I've made have been to fill spaces in my own house. The things I have at home are very finished; they're part of a chapter in my life and I treasure them for what they are. I keep the works in progress for the workshop where it's much easier to discard mistakes and ideas.

What's been your favourite thing to work on? And the most disastrous? I have the same answer to both questions! I'm releasing a range of furniture that utilises a cast-metal bracket system called 'Brace'. It's been a very long development process with more failures, tears and setbacks than I care to recall. But it's that hard slog that makes it one of my favourite pieces and one I'm most proud of.

Have you been surprised by the response to your work? I have we've been really busy over here in Adelaide! The studio was lucky enough to be given the chance to design some great pieces for Woods Bagot and the new Royal Adelaide Hospital, both with Jon Goulder. I was nominated as one of Temple & Webster's top 10 emerging designers and my 'Roy' picnic set was selected as a finalist for the Adelaide-based Drink Dine Design award.

You also work as a nurse. How do you handle the two careers? The time management is a bit of a struggle at times; I'm always up for a good nap if I can get one. But in terms of juggling the two, I'm blessed to have great support from the amazing people I work with. Being able to do both reasonably well certainly helps me get through sticky situations. Most importantly, nursing grounds me. I'm occasionally in need of a good reality check.

What do you have coming up? I'm moving to my very own studio. The earlier part of this year will be devoted to a beautiful new furniture collection for JamFactory. Watch this space!

For more info, visit *stephenroy.com.au*.

PHOTOGRAPHY: JOHANIS LYONS-REID

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ask an expert

Each issue, we'll find stylish solutions to all your decorating and design dilemmas from those in the know

Lisa Koehler is the interior stylist on our renovation specialists Panel (for more on the Panel, turn to page 114). Here, she offers her ideas on decorating a traditional home.

Q How do you decorate a traditional-style entrance hallway with a modern taste? *Kate Moore, via Facebook*

The formula for getting the mix right when decorating a traditional house with modern style is about creating balance between both looks. Firstly, work with the existing architecture of the house and embrace the traditional style with wall colours and flooring tones for a cohesive look throughout. Then add furniture elements that are a clear contrast such as a modern console. Keep the lines simple with clean, structured shapes, such as the 'Echo' cabinet from Zuster (pictured, $7500, zuster. com.au), The styling layer can be approached with a combination of traditional and modern accessories to link the two eras together – just ensure the items have the same visual weight so one look does not dominate. Alternatively, if you want it to feel more modern, add colour, smooth textures and reflective finishes with accessories.

Q I have old subway wall tiles, very closely laid. What is the best way to clean them, re-grout them or enhance their look? *@conkotis, via Instagram*

David Compagnino, business development manager of Signorino Tile Gallery (signorino.com.au), advises cleaning grout with a solution of "baking soda and white vinegar – you can add ammonia if you like – allowing it to dissolve and adding it to a spray bottle. Spraying this on grout until damp and scrubbing with a toothbrush should do the trick. Removing grout can be pain-staking, however grout colours are extensive these days, so you can go for a colour to complement your tiles."

designer tip

Go for pots of all shapes, textures and sizes but ensure they work together

Q Could you offer suggestions for styling a medium-sized balcony please? *Ari, via Facebook*

"When styling a balcony, take a brief from yourself," says **Adam Robinson of Adam Robinson Design** (adamrobinsondesign. com). "Ask questions such as, 'how do I want to use my space?' In a small space, use a side table that can double as seating on those occasions when you have extra guests. Also, if you don't have much floor space, think about using your walls to add interest by installing some pots on hooks to make the most of the space. On the ground, I like to cluster pots in groups of different sizes. If you like a more streamlined feel, choose pots in the same colour and texture try a 'Dagar Eski' pot from Garden Life (pictured, from $495, gardenlife.com.au). Also, understand what the sun does throughout the day to help choose plants, as balconies can trap light. North-west facing is very hot, so requires tough plants. On the other hand, south-facing will require shade-loving plants."

Q I need help in pulling together all the pieces I like into something coherent. *David Lane, via Facebook*

"The final stages of the decorating process can be the hardest part, so you're not alone," says **Emma Blomfield, interior stylist and co-founder of The Decorating School** (thedecoratingschool.com). "Consider the pieces you already own and purchase finishing touches that complement these in terms of colour, tone and texture. Buy pieces you really love, not the trendy items chances are you'll still love them in two to three years' time. In order to bring them all together, spend an afternoon arranging all your bits and bobs. The 'odd' rule works well when arranging groupings of threes and fives tend to be the most pleasing to the eye."

EDITED BY MATILDA DUFFECY. PHOTOGRAPHY: (PORTRAIT) NIGEL LOUGH. (BALCONY AND POTS) NATALIE HUNFALVAY. STYLING: (BALCONY AND POTS) ADAM ROBINSON. BELGIAN LINEN CUSHION COVER, $49, AND ROAR + RABBIT 'CIRCLE' CUSHION COVER, $59, WEST ELM, WESTELM.COM.AU

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BEST BUYS

1. Remember grid placemat, $39/set of 4, Eighteen Ten, eighteenten.com.au. **2. Placemat** from a selection at Country

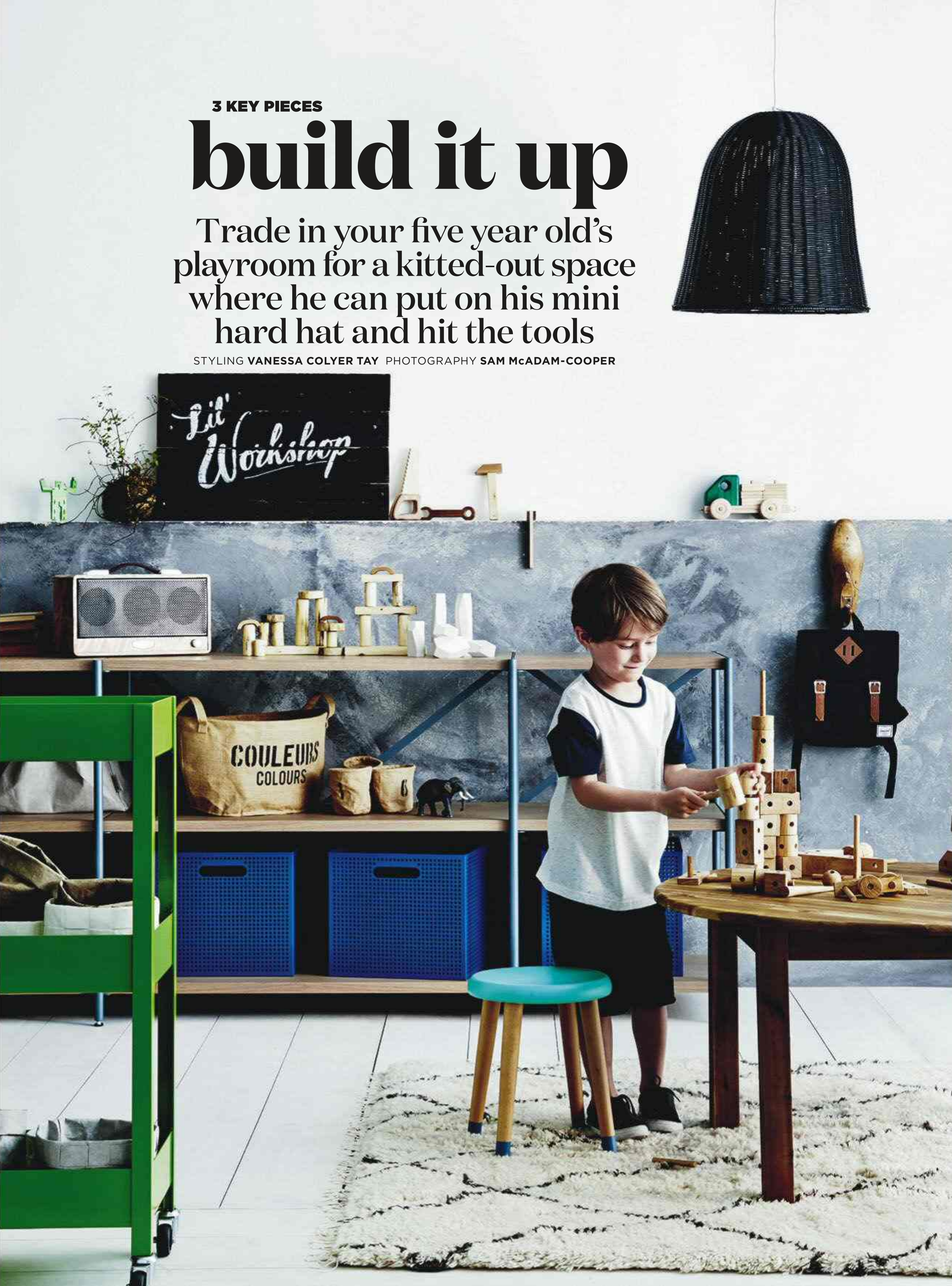
2. Placemat from a selectio

3 KEY PIECES

build it up

Trade in your five year old's playroom for a kitted-out space where he can put on his mini hard hat and hit the tools

STYLING **VANESSA COLYER TAY** PHOTOGRAPHY **SAM McADAM-COOPER**


Lil' Workshop
COULEURS
COLOURS

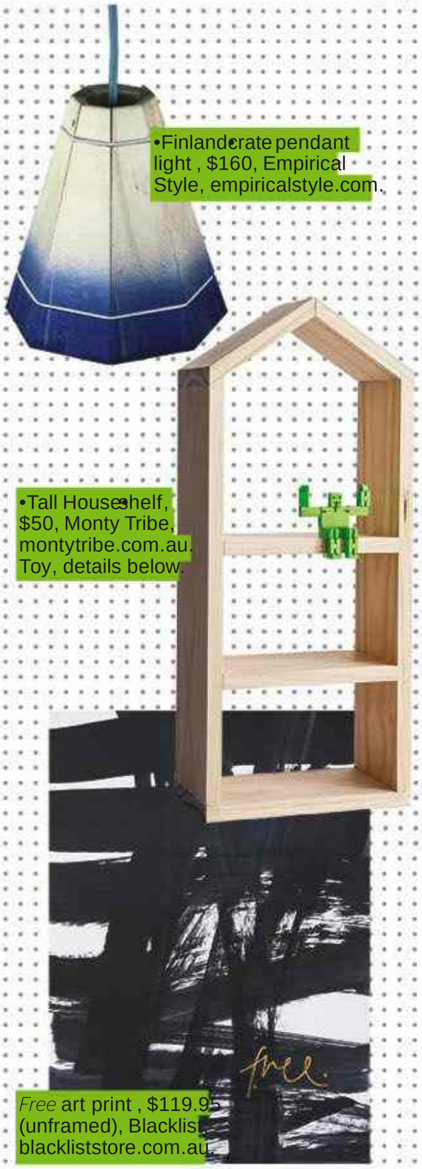
1 A soft rug underfoot will stop this workshop from becoming too industrial. This neutral option neatly ties in with the rest of the room•s tones, while also bringing another layer of texture. •Beni• Moroccan rug, $699, Olli Ella, olliella.com.au.

2 Go for a solid round table that allows friends to join in and has ample room to spread out for construction of a whole town. Round hardwood table, $179.95, KidSmile, kidsmile.com.au.

3 Keep a portable trolley packed with storage tubs for all your child•s building materials and tools. Easy access should make packing away easier. •GP• Trolley, $630, Koskela, koskela.com.au.

•Plenty of storage options will clear space for building-block skyscrapersŽ

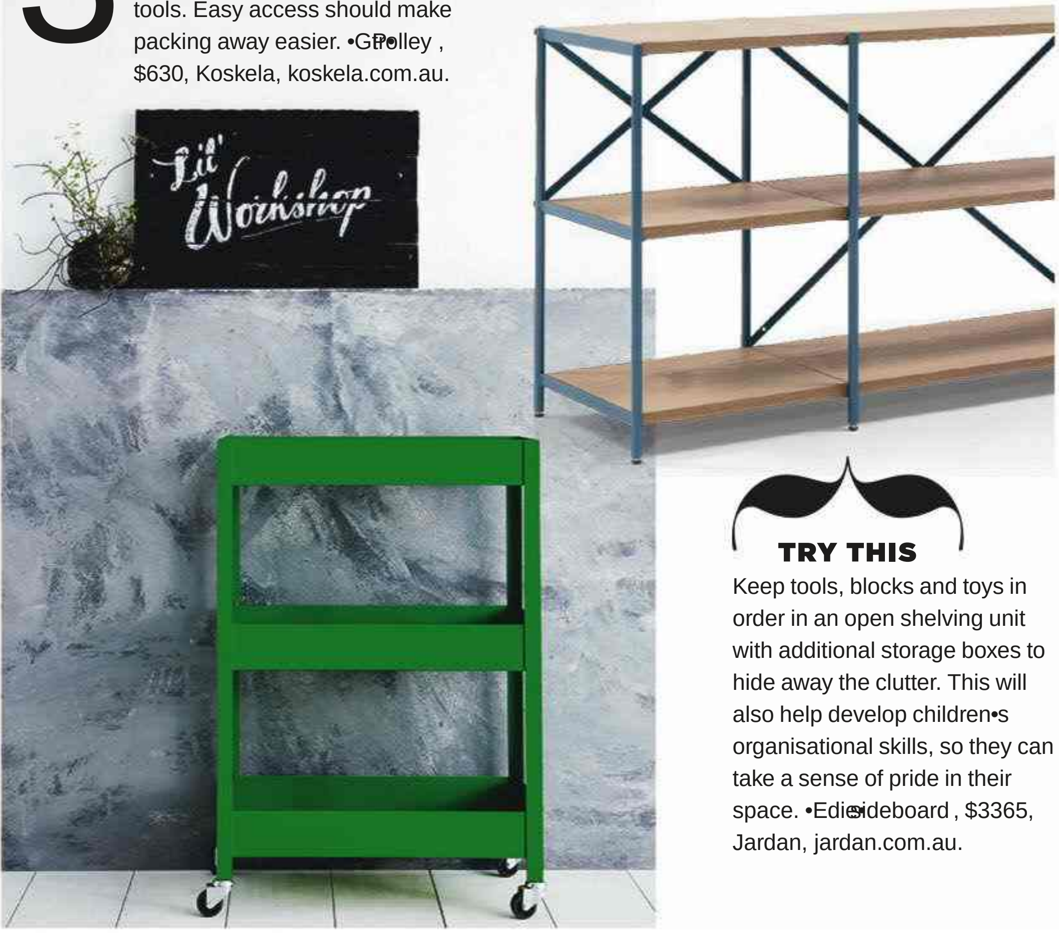
VANESSA COLYER TAY, STYLIST



•Finlander• crate pendant light, $160, Empirical Style, empiricalstyle.com.

•Tall House• shelf, $50, Monty Tribe, montytribe.com.au. Toy, details below.

Free art print, $119.95 (unframed), Blacklist, blackliststore.com.au.

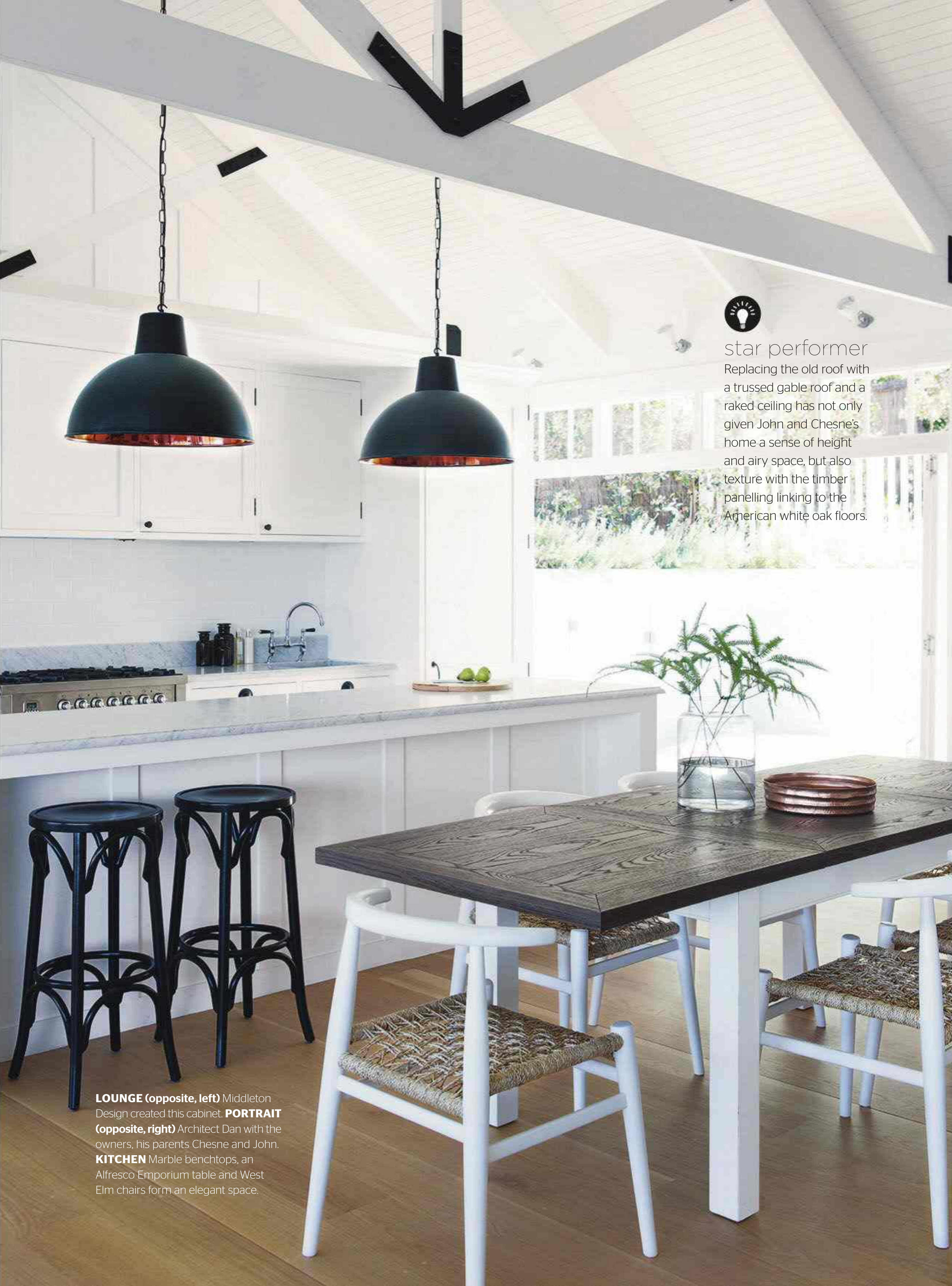


TRY THIS

Keep tools, blocks and toys in order in an open shelving unit with additional storage boxes to hide away the clutter. This will also help develop children•s organisational skills, so they can take a sense of pride in their space. •Edie• sideboard, $3365, Jardan, jardan.com.au.

AND THE RESTƒ On ledge, from left: Areaware •Cubebot Micro• robot toy, $14.95, Until. Peppermint and moss garden ball, $20, Pigweed. •Lil• Workshop• sign, POA, Ashdown & Bee. Fanny & Alexander heirloom wooden tools, $115/assorted set of 4, Plyroom. Brick truck toy, $45, Koskela. Shoe last coat hook, $45, Original Finish. Herschel Supply kids• backpack, $79.95, Kido Store. On sideboard: Timbre •Classic• speaker, $999, Koskela. QToys natural tree blocks, $49.95/assorted set of 42, KidSmile. Areaware •Balancing• blocks, $99.95, Until. •Couleur• bags, from $7 each, Le Forge. Papo Asian elephant igurine, $11.95, Kido Store. NakNak •The Box• boxes, $129.95 each, Resident GP. Rose In April •Alice• stool, $125, Kido Store. On table: QToys construction building blocks, $59.85/assorted set of 85, KidSmile. On trolley: •Weave• bags, from $39 each, Uashmama. Rattan pendant light shade, $89, The Family Love Tree. ADDRESS BOOK page 164

STYLING ASSISTANCE: LAUREN BECKER AND AMBER FAIRBAIRN. FINN WEARS T SHIRT, HIS OWN, AND ALPHABET SOUP SHORTS, $59.95, MY MESSY ROOM, MYMESSYROOM.COM.AU. LOW WALL IN •PENTIMENTO• LIME WASH IN MINERAL, $138, MUROBOND, MUROBOND.COM.AU. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. *THIS IMAGE IS SHOT IN A STUDIO AND SHOULD SERVE AS GENERAL INSPIRATION ONLY. CONSIDER WHETHER THESE PRODUCTS ARE SUITABLE FOR YOUR CHILD BEFORE PURCHASING



star performer

Replacing the old roof with a trussed gable roof and a raked ceiling has not only given John and Chesne's home a sense of height and airy space, but also texture with the timber panelling linking to the American white oak floors.

LOUNGE (opposite, left) Middleton Design created this cabinet. **PORTRAIT (opposite, right)** Architect Dan with the owners, his parents Chesne and John. **KITCHEN** Marble benchtops, an Alfresco Emporium table and West Elm chairs form an elegant space.

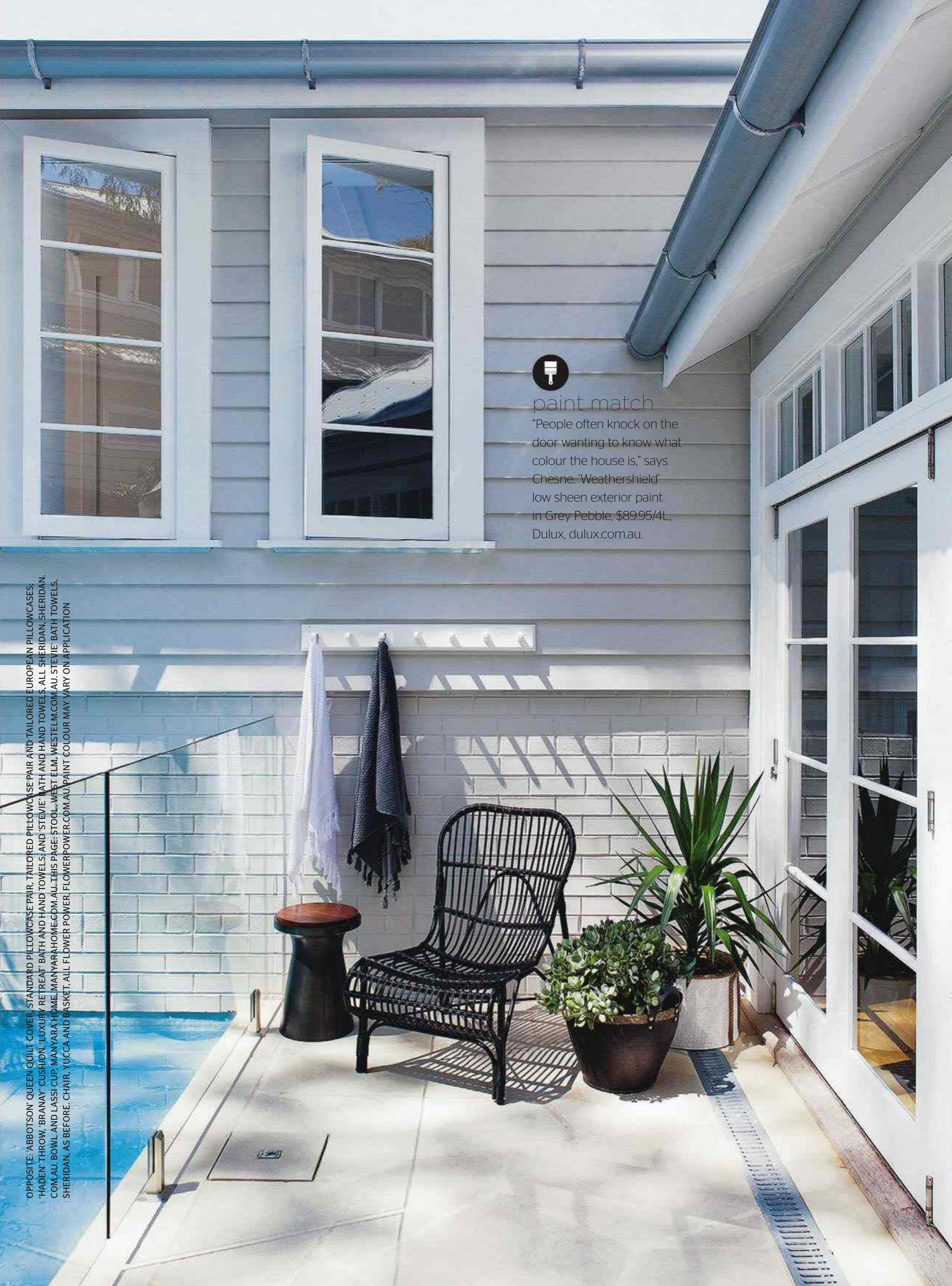
lessons learnt

"THE BIGGEST LESSON WAS KEEPING AN OPEN MIND AND TRUSTING THE EXPERTS"

CHESNE RAYMOND, HOMEOWNER

"Sometimes, I'd be on site and not be sure about a feature the lights in the lounge ceiling bays or the black chimney flue for example. Taking the time to live with it and trusting my architect and builder ultimately led to appreciation. Now, I love how the bays are lit up at night, and it was definitely the right decision to make a feature of the flue. Someone said to us if you want a quick build, move in with your builder, so we did! Poor Mike had us at his dinner table every night for two months, but we didn't go to the site too much unless he said we needed to. It was all about letting the young ones run with the job."

BEDROOM 'Abbotson' bedlinen from Sheridan gives this space its refined yet relaxing feel. A 'Haden' throw, 'Branay' cushion and towels in the ensuite, also from Sheridan, finish the look. **POOL (opposite)** The inclusion of the plunge pool was decided upon during construction. "We're so glad we built it," says Chesne. "The grandkids love it."



paint match

"People often knock on the door wanting to know what colour the house is," says Chesne. 'Weathershield' low sheen exterior paint in Grey Pebble, $89.95/4L, Dulux, dulux.com.au.

OPPOSITE: 'ABBOTSON' QUEEN QUILT COVER, STANDARD PILLOWCASE PAIR, TAILORED PILLOWCASE PAIR AND TAILORED EUROPEAN PILLOWCASES; 'HADEN' THROW, 'BRANAY' CUSHION, 'LUXURY RETREAT' BATH AND HAND TOWELS; AND 'STEVIE' BATH AND HAND TOWELS, ALL SHERIDAN, SHERIDAN.COM.AU. BOWL AND LASSI CUP, MANYARA HOME, MANYARAHOME.COM.AU. THIS PAGE: STOOL, WEST ELM, WESTELM.COM.AU. STEVIE' BATH TOWELS, SHERIDAN, AS BEFORE. CHAIR, YUCCA AND BASKET, ALL FLOWER POWER, FLOWERPOWER.COM.AU. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

BEDROOM (left) A calming bed of blue, dressed in 'Reilly' bedlinen and an 'Abel' star cushion from Sheridan, is at the heart of this space. **ENSUITE** Astra Walker taps and a Victoria + Albert 'York' bath were sourced at WC Bath + Shower. Extra pampering touches are the 'Beach Escape' hand wash and hand lotion from Sheridan. The bath mat is also from Sheridan.

how to add texture

Jo Jaggs, general manager of design at Sheridan, gives us her tips on bringing texture to three key zones. **Living area** Creating style moments throughout your home is easy using a mix of cushions and throws. Look for soft weaves, textured linen and woollen knits. And don't forget about the details pattern, stitching and trims will add another level of interest. **Bathroom** Beautifully textural towels will bring a luxe feel to soften the hard surfaces of a wet zone. Create a contemporary look with a feature bath mat and a few different coloured towels for contrast. **Bedroom** Layer it up with luxe linen sheets and quilts, chunky knit throws and cushions, which feel great and up the cosy factor for a bed you want to dive into.

Open for Inspection

COME ON IN! Thanks to Sheridan, you can take a video tour of this elegant home. Our editor-in-chief Claire and resident interior architect Shannon Vos will be your guides. Visit insideout.com.au to see the video.

3 GREAT FINDS

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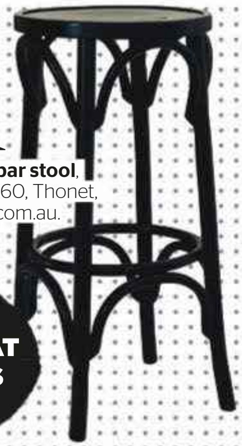

Round **bar stool**, from $260, Thonet, thonet.com.au.

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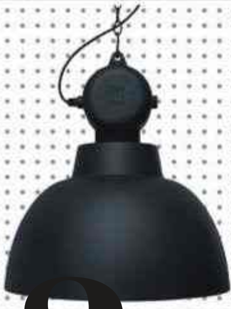

'Factory' **lamp**, $699, HK Living Australia, hkliving.com.au.

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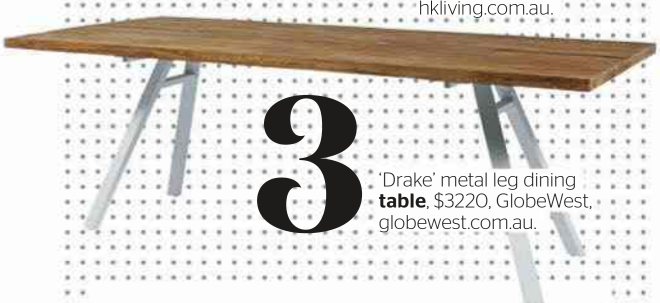

'Drake' metal leg dining **table**, $3220, GlobeWest, globewest.com.au.

on the surface

400mm x 800mm 'Stones' calacatta marble **tile**, $95/sqm, Di Lorenzo Tiles, dilorenzo.com.au.

'Liverpool White' subway **tile**, $89/sqm, Tile MegaMart, tilemegamart.com.au.

Premium Oak 'Stained European Oak' wide plank **flooring** in Sierra, $80/sqm, Premium Floors, premium floors.com.au/find-a-dealer.

LEFT: 'REILLY' JUNIOR QUILTED BEDCOVER, SINGLE SHEET SET AND EUROPEAN PILLOWCASE; AND 'ABEL' STAR CUSHION, ALL SHERIDAN, SHERIDAN.COM.AU. TOY HORSES AND GARLAND, THE SNUG, @THE_SNUG_NB ON INSTAGRAM. RIGHT: 'BEACH ESCAPE' HAND WASH AND HAND LOTION, AND 'LUXURY RETREAT' HAND TOWEL, ALL SHERIDAN, AS BEFORE. ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: DANIELLE SELIG

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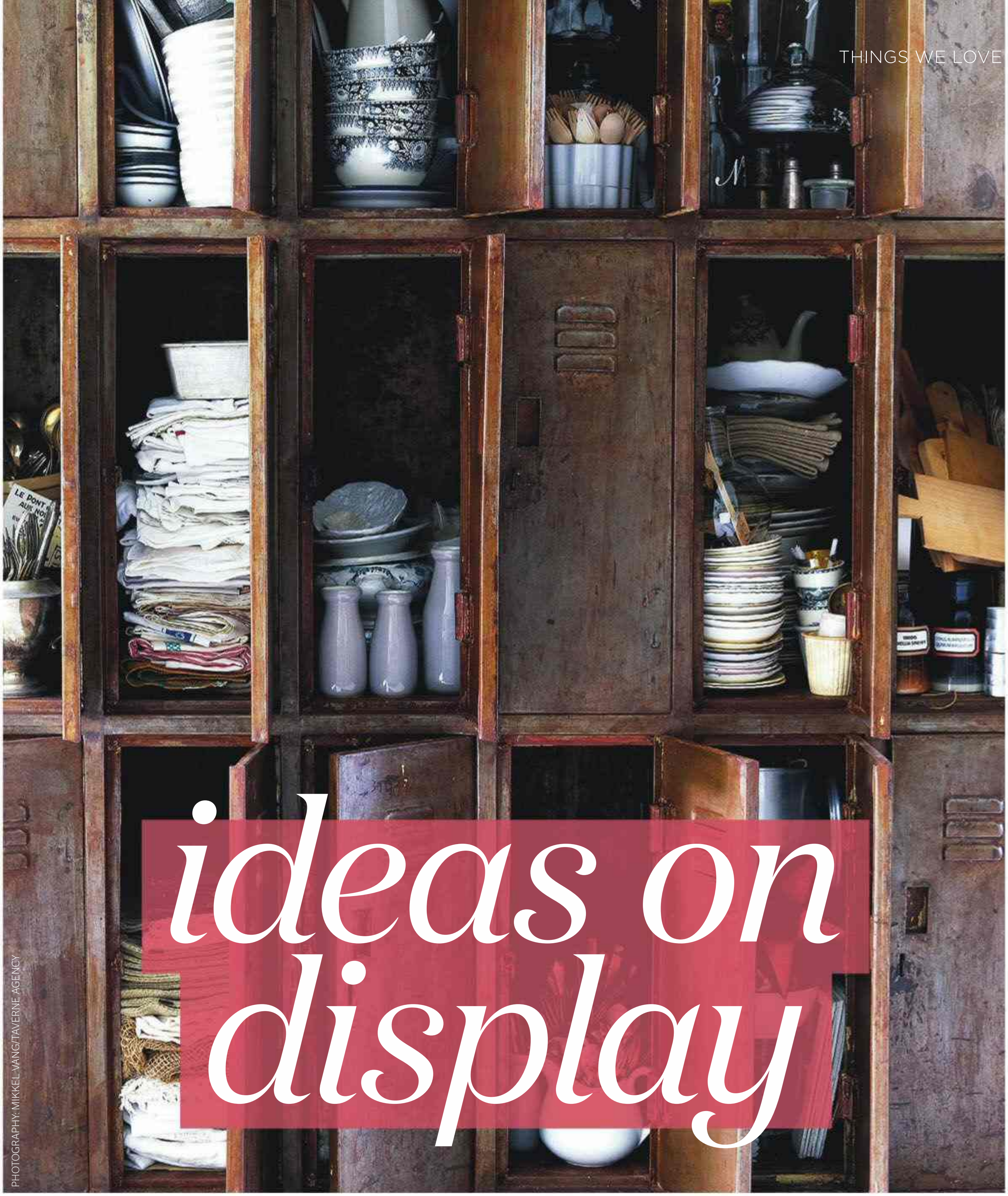
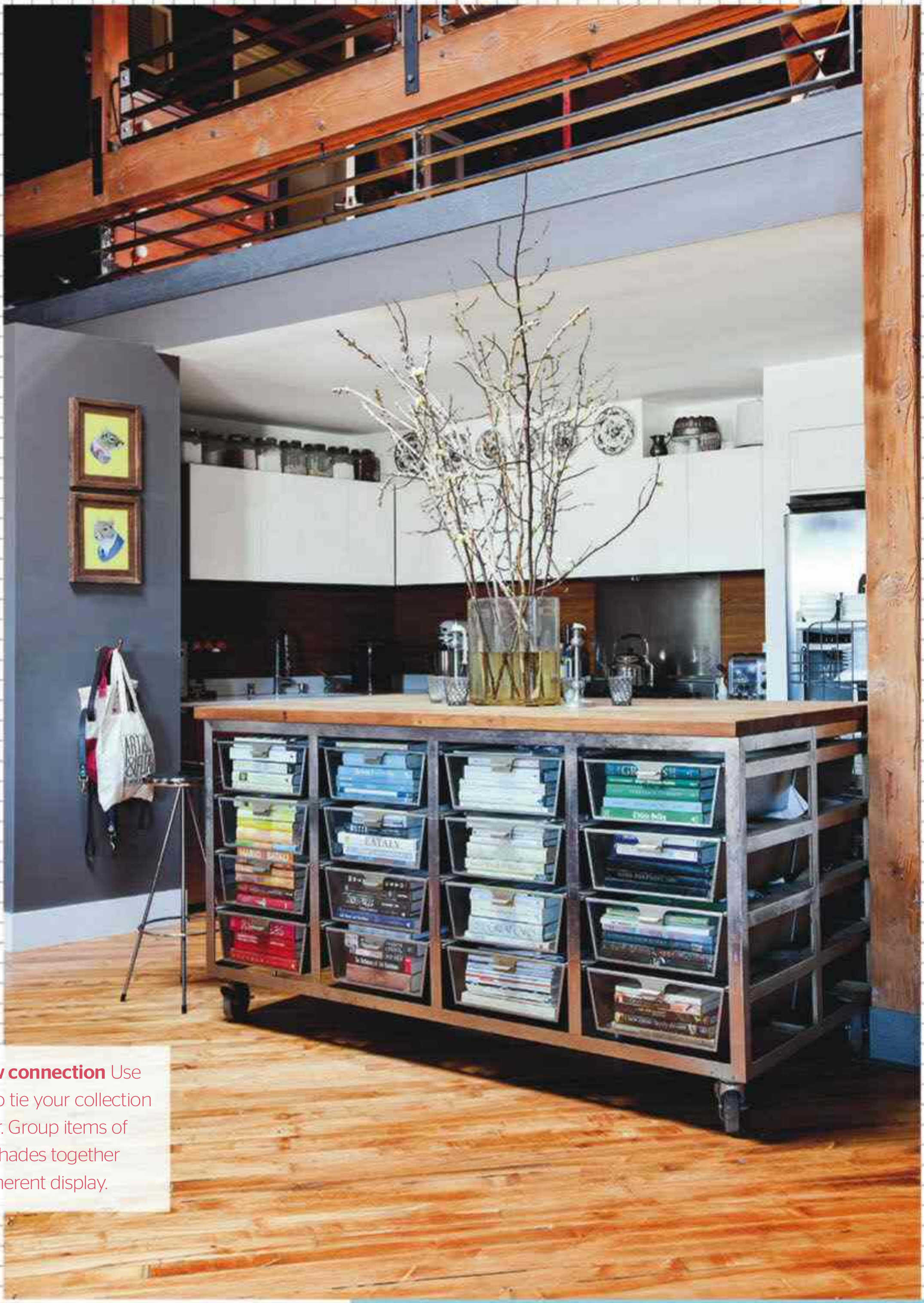


PHOTOGRAPHY: MIKKEL VANG/TAVERNE AGENCY

ideas on display

Your favourite homewares store can be a rich source of inspiring display ideas. In *The Shopkeeper's Home*, retailers share their kitchen spaces, along with vignette secrets you can use at home WORDS **CAROLINE ROWLAND**



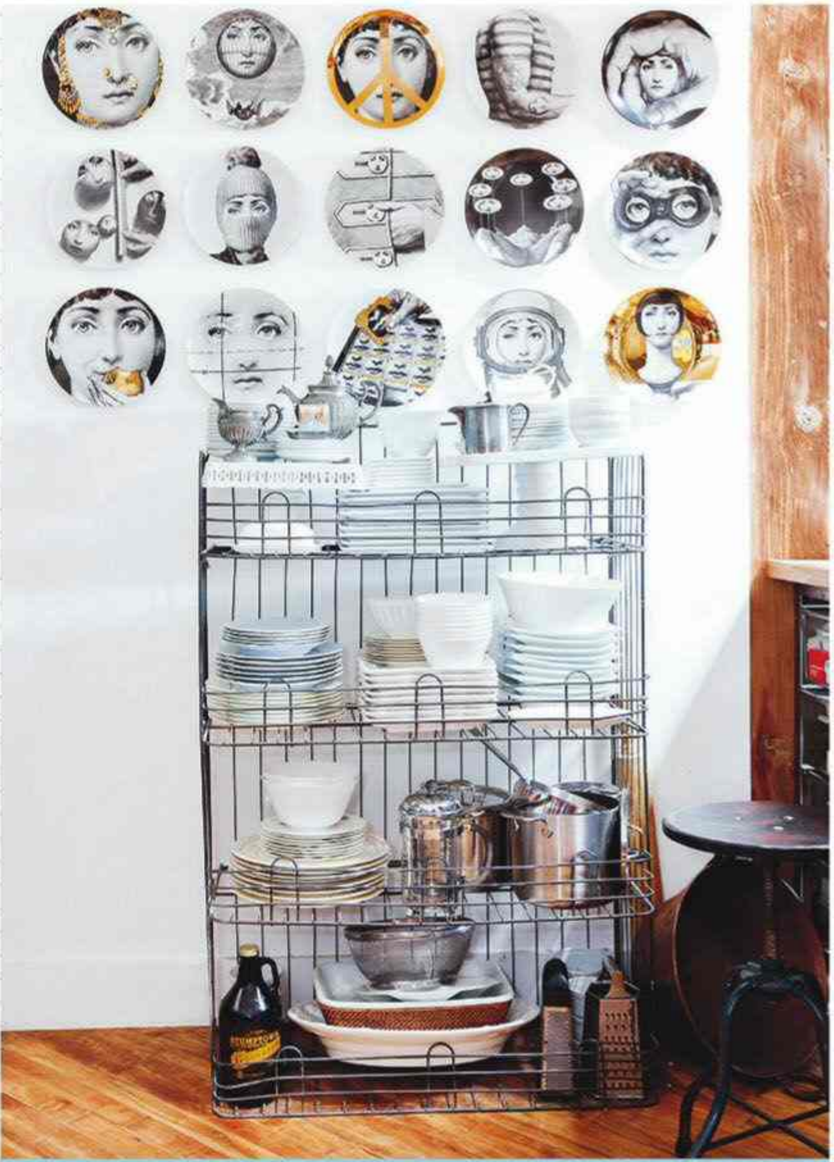
rainbow connection Use colour to tie your collection together. Group items of similar shades together for a coherent display.

PHOTOGRAPHY: JACQUI SMALL LLP/JANIS NICOLAY

Stepping inside a beautiful shop can set the heart aflutter as you anticipate what you might find, followed by the lovely buzz of retail therapy. But it's also a chance to gather style inspiration as you explore each and every corner. The way the proprietors have utilised a converted space, their choice of flooring and wall-coverings, and the clever solutions for displaying their wares, are all great ideas that can be gathered and applied to your own home. This is precisely what Caroline Rowland explores in her new book, *The Shopkeeper's Home* ($49.99, Jacqui Small). In this extract, you can see how curators, whose style credentials shine from their shelves, translate this talent for decor into their personal spaces.

INDUSTRIAL CHIC

This kitchen belongs to Michael Andrews of homewares store Inheritance in Los Angeles (inheritanceshop.com). Originally a set dresser and prop stylist, Michael began working at LA-based shop Zelen while he was a freelancer. When the owner, Dan Zelen, decided to move to San Francisco in 2009, Michael took over the reins. Michael continued to build on Dan's eclectic taste, but at the same time developed his own approach to curating the store, and after feeling that it had become 'his' shop, he changed the name to Inheritance. The centrepiece in his kitchen is the



sitting pretty Wall-mounted shelving, glass-fronted cabinets, sideboards, dressers and trolleys, both industrial and retro, are all great pieces for displaying objects.

large island (above), a repurposed retail shop display unit. As well as creating a large worktop for preparing meals, it also holds cookbooks and magazines in the drawers.

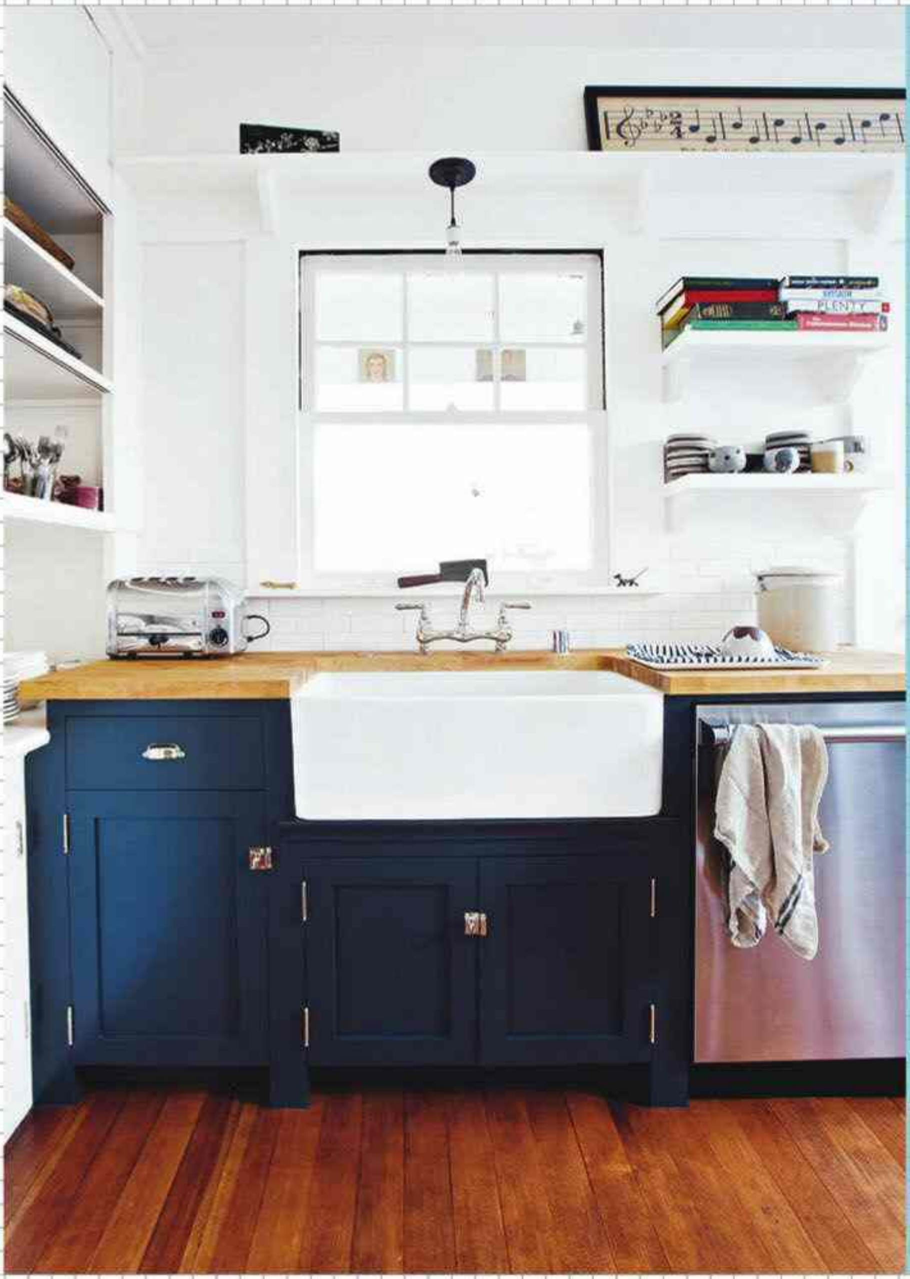
Michael groups his collections of Fornasetti china together for maximum impact. The quirky plate designs make a strong display in a grid formation in his kitchen. Items that aren't typically fixed to walls can turn out to make a unique display that that could easily be adapted for a home setting. Plates, rugs, stuffed animals and birds, even vintage sports equipment are all examples of three-dimensional elements you can try adding to your walls.

10 great display ideas

Good display will add a special something to a treasured collection. Think about ways to bring out the best in what you're putting on show. Use impact, colour, repetition, or play with height to create the desired effect. Above all, have fun!

1. Pegboards are a versatile way of displaying utility items.
2. Glass-fronted cupboards are ideal for displaying treasured kitchenalia.
3. Group mirrors to reflect light in a living space.
4. Lean paintings against a wall to make an informal art installation.
5. Use differing heights and widths to create a vignette.
6. A grid formation is perfect for items of identical shape and size.
7. Glass cloches are great for showcasing and protecting your most cherished items.
8. Use pegs to display cute kids' clothes.
9. Line wooden boxes with colourful wallpaper for a handmade look.
10. Use a suitcase propped open to display its wares.

hot wheels Wooden or metal ex-factory trolleys are great for storing items that need to be moved around or be easily accessible.



shop up style

Decorating ideas to take home with you from lifestyle stores

- Create atmosphere by zoning your living space into areas of interest divided by freestanding, open display units to showcase treasured possessions.
- Keep walls and floors pared back so you can experiment with texture and colour on furniture. Let the objects do the talking.
- Use repurposed furniture or renovate individual pieces yourself – use old crates or reclaimed wooden shelving to 'exhibit' your favourite items.

CLASSIC CHARM

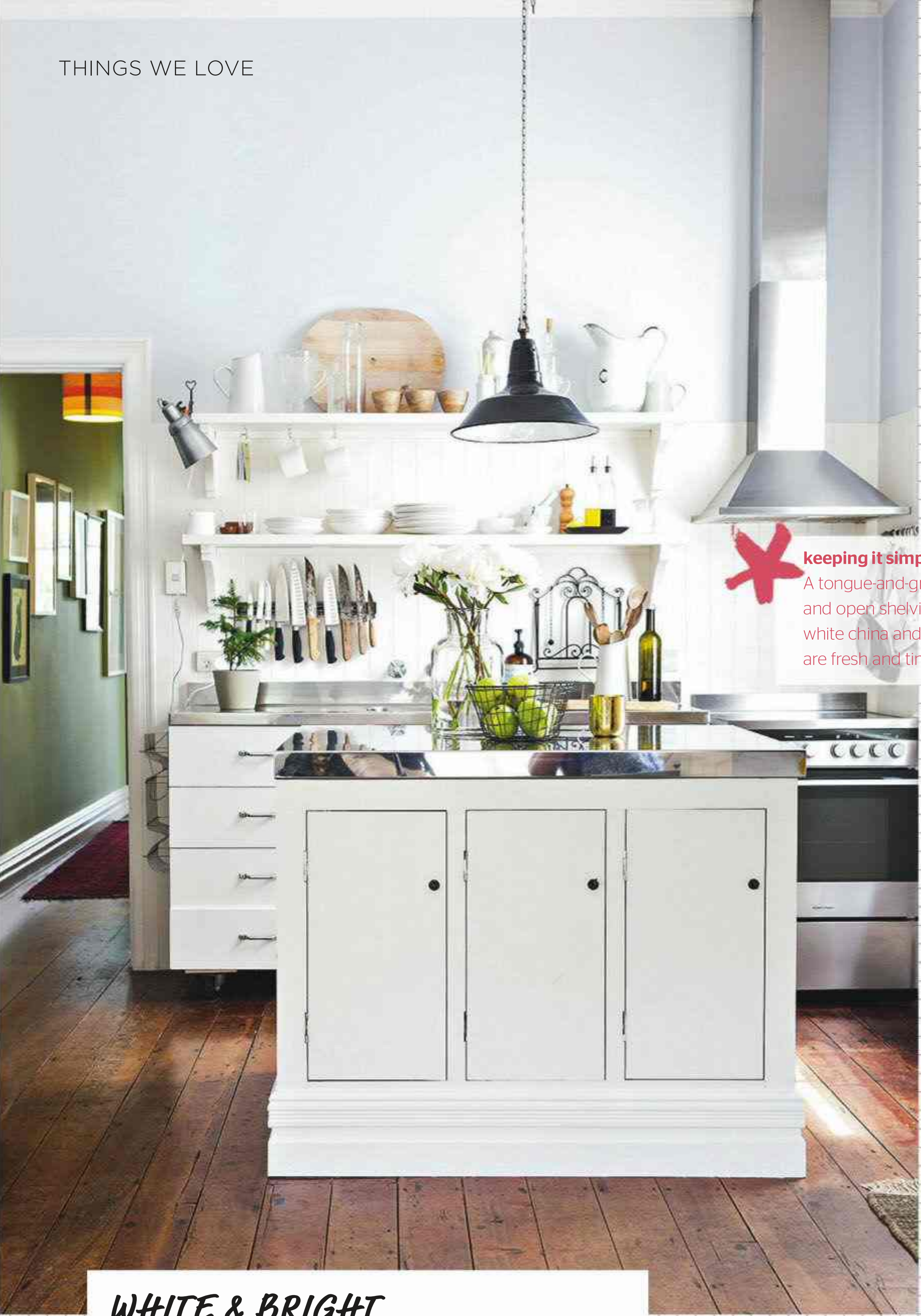
Co-owner of Oakland, California-based store Atomic Garden (atomicgardenoakland.com), Jamie Kidson lives in a craftsman-style home built by architect Walter Ratcliff in 1910. Her wood-clad home has almost all of its original features, which Jamie has worked tirelessly to repair. She has also introduced retro furniture that blends well with the 'arts and crafts' aesthetic. She tried to ensure that the newly installed kitchen and bathroom appeared as if they had always been there, choosing styles and colour palettes that blend seamlessly with the character of the building.

Jamie's kitchen has a functional yet classical authenticity, which is fitting for a home of this style. She keeps clutter to a minimum and has introduced storage solutions such as wall-mounted knife holders and a traditional larder for easy accessibility.

Jamie has an ingenious idea in her kitchen: shelving with shutters that can be opened up to the dining room, making the two rooms feel open-plan when needed, and separate at other times. She also has cupboards above and below for tidying away unattractive kitchenware. Shelving above the window is good for utilising dead space.

PHOTOGRAPHY: JACQUI SMALL LLP/JANIS NICOLAY

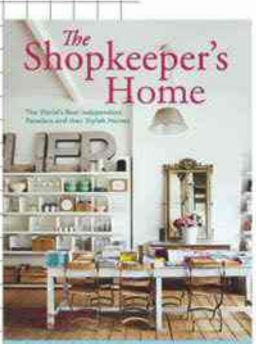
clear view Homeowner Jamie prefers an uncluttered environment with only useful or treasured items around her.



keeping it simple
A tongue-and-groove wall and open shelving, holding white china and glassware, are fresh and timeless.

WHITE & BRIGHT

The home of Claudia Zinzan and Nick Hutchinson of New Zealand homewares store Father Rabbit (fatherrabbit.com), incorporates a more relaxed level of precision and order than their shop, but displays the same sense of minimalistic comfort. Their approach to styling the store is to give their products lots of display space, and this technique also works well at home. The house is testament to the fact that you can make a beautiful home on a budget. Nick used his DIY skills to make furniture, such as the kitchen island with a stainless-steel top and MDF shelving. Claudia was in charge of sourcing accessories and, as well as using some of their own product range, she found items from salvage yards and internet auction sites.



The Shopkeeper's Home

This is an edited extract of *The Shopkeeper's Home: The World's Best Independent Retailers And Their Stylish Homes* by Caroline Rowland ($49.99, Jacqui Small).

PHOTOGRAPHY: DUNCAN INNES/HOMESTYLE MAGAZINE

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fabric *of* life

Whether it’s a plush sofa or sheer curtain, materials matter. Pick the right textile for your project with this guide

STYLING ASSISTANCE: ROSIE MEEHAN

warm & vibrant

WORDS **FIONA JOY** STYLING **IMOGENE ROACHE** PHOTOGRAPHY **SAM McADAM-COOPER**

Nothing adds personality quite like the fabrics you choose for your home. From the window-dressings to the sofa and all manner of soft accessories, fabric is the perfect way to set the mood and update, depending on the season or your state of mind. But while you're effecting change without knocking down walls, that doesn't mean it's a cheap option; you can expect to pay a pretty price for quality textiles, so make sure your choices will work with your lifestyle. Before you buy, things to consider include who will be using the room and how; how much sunlight it receives; maintenance; and how much money you want to spend.

At a basic level, fabrics can be divided into two groups: natural and man-made. Natural fibres come from animals and plants; synthetic fibres come from inorganic materials and chemicals, and there are some options that have a foot in both camps.

the naturals

COTTON Cotton is a fluffy fibre that grows in a 'boll' around the seeds of the cotton plant in tropical and subtropical areas. (There are about 1250 cotton farms in Australia.) Cotton is a strong, versatile natural fibre that can be dyed, so colour choices are endless. The weave allows for the flow of air, meaning it breathes well, so it's great in a warm climate. The range of weights and textures within the cotton family is mind-boggling: calico, jacquard, corduroy, denim, moleskin, flannel, sateen, chenille and velvet are just a few.
Best for Upholstered seating, everyday cushions; informal window treatments.
Lifestyle Durable; easy to care for and clean; great choice for families.

WOOL Wool is shorn from sheep, goats and alpaca. Wool fibres are naturally crimped, which traps the air, making it warm and cosy. Wool is the most durable of all the natural fabrics and will last you a lifetime and beyond, but can be quite rough to the touch.
Best for Carpets and rugs. Mohair adds a special detail to a throw or statement cushion.
Lifestyle The price of wool upholstery knocks it off many lists, but aside from that, it attracts moths. For upholstery, wool blends are a better bet because they can be spot-cleaned.

LINEN Made from the flax plant, linen is a cool, tough, crisp fabric that's known for its antifungal and antibacterial properties. Small knots known as 'slubs' can occur randomly. Traditionally considered defects, slubs are now often seen as part of the overall aesthetic appeal. Linen creases easily but quickly becomes soft with further use.
Best for Tablecloths and napery; casual window treatments.
Lifestyle With a breezy feel, linen is naturally prone to wrinkles so a good option if casual elegance is your thing (or you enjoy ironing!).

SILK Silk is made from the cocoons of silkworms, which literally spin their own graves. The manufacturing process for silk is fiddly and laborious and that's reflected in the price tag. The good news is its production has a lower impact on the environment than many other fabrics. With myriad colour and pattern options, the end product can be light and sheer or heavy and raw, with various stages in between. Generally speaking, the heavier the weave the more wear it's able to take. Despite its dainty reputation, silk is typically hard-wearing, long-lasting and feels cool to the touch.
Best for Window treatments, upholstery, rugs, luxe cushions and pillows.
Lifestyle Silk is best used out of direct sunlight where it can be susceptible to 'sun rot'. It also doesn't recover well from spills, so it is best left in a low-traffic zone.

the synthetics

RAYON is made from wood chip fibres and mimics silk, cotton or linen at a fraction of the price. It hangs well so is a popular choice for curtains but shrinks and wrinkles in the damp. **NYLON** is rarely used alone but blended with other textiles to add resilience. **POLYESTER** is tough and a good choice for outdoor furniture, as it tolerates sunlight and moisture well. **MICROFIBRE AND MICROSUEDE** are made from polyester and can be great for high-traffic sofas, such as in kids' rooms, because they're soft, forgiving and water-repellent. **ACRYLIC** gives a wool-like feel, and high-quality acrylics can be quite convincing. It's inexpensive, won't fade and comes in a whole heap of colours, patterns and textures. It's often blended with natural fibres to increase durability. **OLEFIN** is a newish kid on the upholstery block and it's an option if you need something extremely hard-wearing. It's highly stain- and moisture-resistant, so perfect for the patio. And another positive trait, it's easily recyclable.

PAGE 64 Designers Guild 'Padua' linen in Peony, $314/m, Radford Furnishings, radfordfurnishings.com. **Marimekko 'Ararat' cotton/linen**, $85/m, Chee Soon & Fitzgerald, cheesoonfitzgerald.com. **PAGE 65 Fabrics, from left: 'Lumiere Magenta' acrylic**, $83.60/m, Warwick Fabrics, warwick.com.au. **Dominique Kieffer by Rubelli 'Reloaded' jacquard in Rose**, $275/m, South Pacific Fabrics, southpacificfabrics.com. **Designers Guild 'Savine' linen in Indigo**, $686/m, Radford Furnishings, as before. 'Clip Clip' **holder**, from $12, Hay Sydney, hayshop.com.au. **On hanging rail: Edit 'Vases' linen/cotton**, $182/m, Tigger Hall Design, tiggerhall.com. Un Esprit En Plus France **hanging rail**, $149, Blanc-Leger, blanc-leger.com. **On stand: Hobbs & Co 'Iron Butterfly' linen/cotton**, $125/m, Tigger Hall Design, as before. **Gaston Y Daniela 'Javier GDT 5188-004' cotton**, POA, Domestic Textile Corporation, domestictextile.com.au. **Designer 'Ikat Spot' cotton in Pink**, $89/m, No Chintz, nochintz.com. Hay 'Loop' **stand**, $527, Cult, cultdesign.com.au. **'Akari Orchid' cotton** (on floor), $61.60/m, Warwick Fabrics, as before. Background in 'Ombre Multi Horizon' texture paper back vinyl **wallpaper**, $260/2.8m x 1.25m panel, Emily Ziz Style Studio, emilyziz.com. **THIS PAGE Jab Anstoetz 'Swirl' polyester**, POA, Seneca Textiles, (02) 9362 3044.

OPPOSITE Fabrics, from left: Lisa Bengtsson 'Cleo' linen/cotton, $110/m, Chee Soon & Fitzgerald, as before. **Liberty Art Fabrics 'Mae Tree' linen in Clementine**, $252/m, Radford Furnishings, as before. **Lisa Bengtsson 'Disco' linen/cotton**, $110/m, Chee Soon & Fitzgerald, as before. **Pepe Peñalver 'Jungle' cotton**, POA, Elliott Clarke & Co, elliottclarke.com.au. **Jab Anstoetz 'Swirl' polyester**, POA, Seneca Textiles, as before. **Colony 'Brina' linen in Verde**, $320/m, Boyac, boyac.com.au. Background in 'Ombre Multi Slush' texture paper back vinyl **wallpaper**, $260/2.8m x 1.25m panel, Emily Ziz Style Studio, as before.

lush botanicals

how to buy fabric

Cameron Warwick from Warwick Fabrics offers his advice

How do I choose my fabric? Start your research online to gather together some ideas of what patterns, colours and textures are available and what might work in your home. Next, you can order cutting samples to be sent out to you directly – for our fabrics, you can do that via our website. For extra inspiration you could check out your favourite blogs, Pinterest and Instagram. Next step would be to find a good upholsterer, designer or retailer to work with you on your project.

So I've narrowed it down – what's next? If you're feeling a little overwhelmed by online searches, or want to see the fabrics you have selected in a larger piece, head to a showroom for a better look. Not all showrooms are open to the public, however. Wholesalers, like us, do not sell direct to the public, so you'll need to speak to a trader who has an account with us.

How do I buy the one I've chosen? Once you've decided on an upholsterer, interior designer, decorator or retailer, you can liaise with them on the fabric selection and get their advice on your ideas. Then that person will buy the fabric on your behalf. Or if you're buying a new sofa for example, the furniture retailer will arrange the upholstery in your chosen fabric.

What if I want to DIY? If you're doing your own re-upholstery or making your own curtains, there are a number of retailers who sell a range of fabrics direct to the public. Just be aware that you may end up spending a little more, as they will naturally add a mark-up to the wholesale price.

For more details on Warwick Fabrics, visit warwick.com.au.

monochromatic

Fabrics, from left: 'Nirvana Slate' polyester, $61.60/m, Warwick Fabrics, warwick.com.au. Jab Anstoetz 'Joelle' polyester, POA, Seneca Textiles, (02) 9362 3044. 'Mystere Ebony' polyester, $50.60/m, Warwick Fabrics, as before. Larsen 'Infinity' linen in Black, **POA, Domus Textiles, (02) 9380 6577.** 'Crayola Scribbles' polyester upholstery fabric in Brush Reverse Ink, **$98/m, Emily Ziz Style Studio, emilyziz.com.au.** Lorca 'Coquine' viscose/cotton, **POA, Seneca Textiles, as before.** 'Larissa Ivory' polyester, **$121/m, and** 'Cato Nero' polyester, **$61.60/m, Warwick Fabrics, as before. Ferm Living** clothes rack, **$269, Designstuff, designstuff.com.au. Background in 'Ombre Smoke' texture paper back vinyl** wallpaper, **$260/2.8m x 1.25m panel, Emily Ziz Style Studio, as before.**

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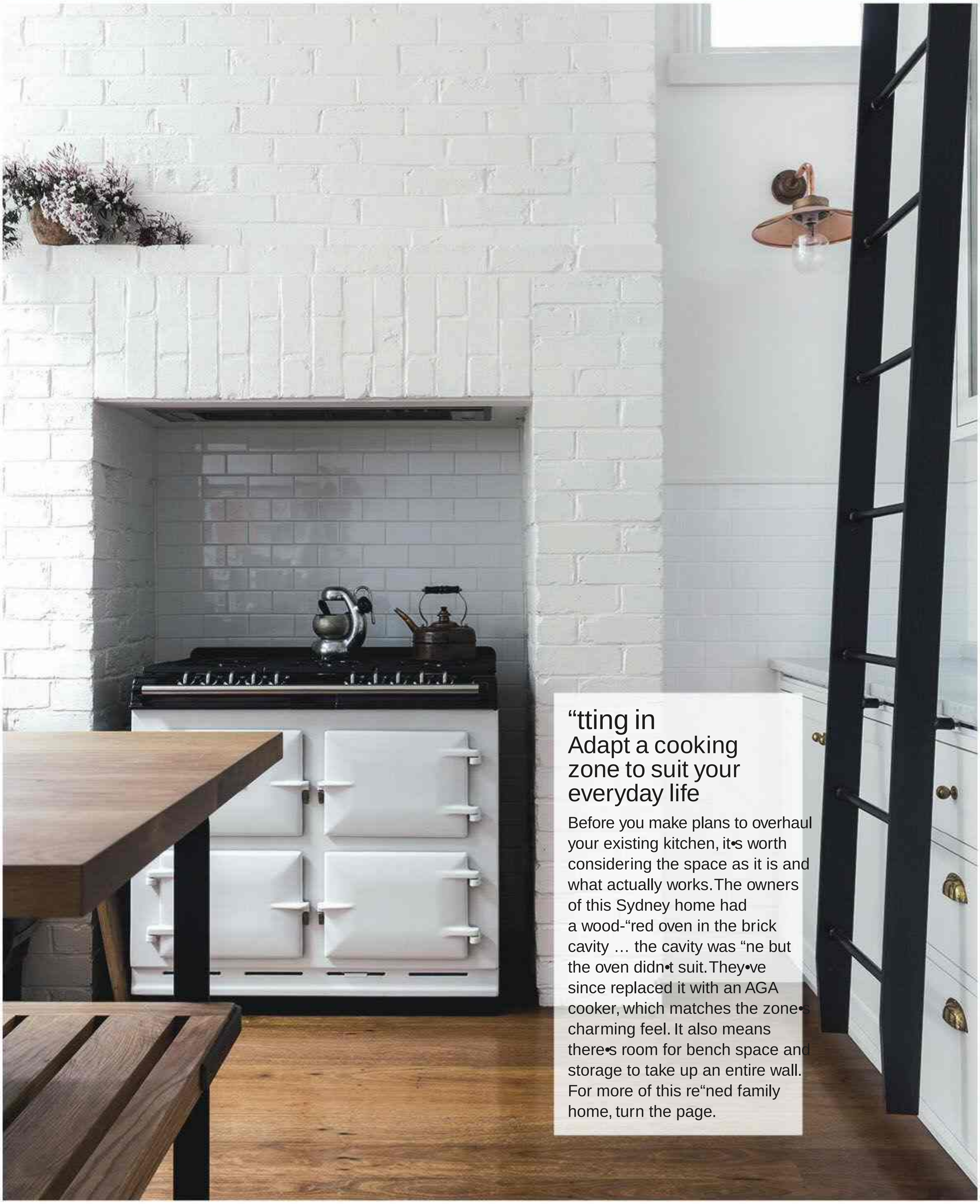


Fitting in

Adapt a cooking zone to suit your everyday life

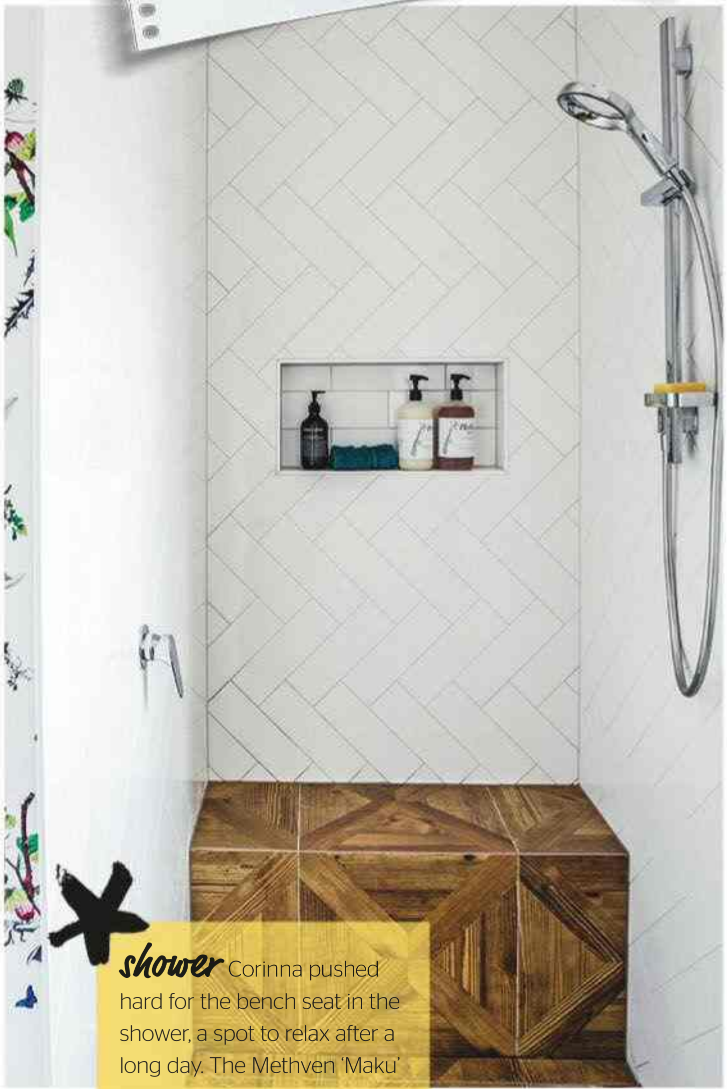
Before you make plans to overhaul your existing kitchen, it's worth considering the space as it is and what actually works. The owners of this Sydney home had a wood-fired oven in the brick cavity … the cavity was fine but the oven didn't suit. They've since replaced it with an AGA cooker, which matches the zone's charming feel. It also means there's room for bench space and storage to take up an entire wall. For more of this refined family home, turn the page.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANNABELLE HICKSON. STYLING: MEGAN MORTON

Corinna's wishlist

- **light and plenty of space** Needs great light, good flow and has to be able to handle a few people in the bathroom at the same time, without us crashing into one another
- **smart storage** The new bathroom should have loads of storage that's easy to access
- **timeless appeal** I want a bathroom that will age well and won't look dated in five years' time, but also have some personality with a few quirky design elements to reflect our personal tastes
- **shower seat** I really want a bench seat in the shower for shaving your legs or just sitting down to let the water cascade over you when it's been one of those truly exhausting days

the moodboard



shower Corinna pushed hard for the bench seat in the shower, a spot to relax after a long day. The Methven 'Maku' rail shower and shower mixer make this much-used space a place of spa-like relaxation.

wallpaper The Kristjana S Williams wallpaper was inspiration for the room's style. "Condensation will destroy wallpaper," says Corinna, "so the trick is to keep a constant temperature of 21°C to 22°C and have impeccable ventilation."

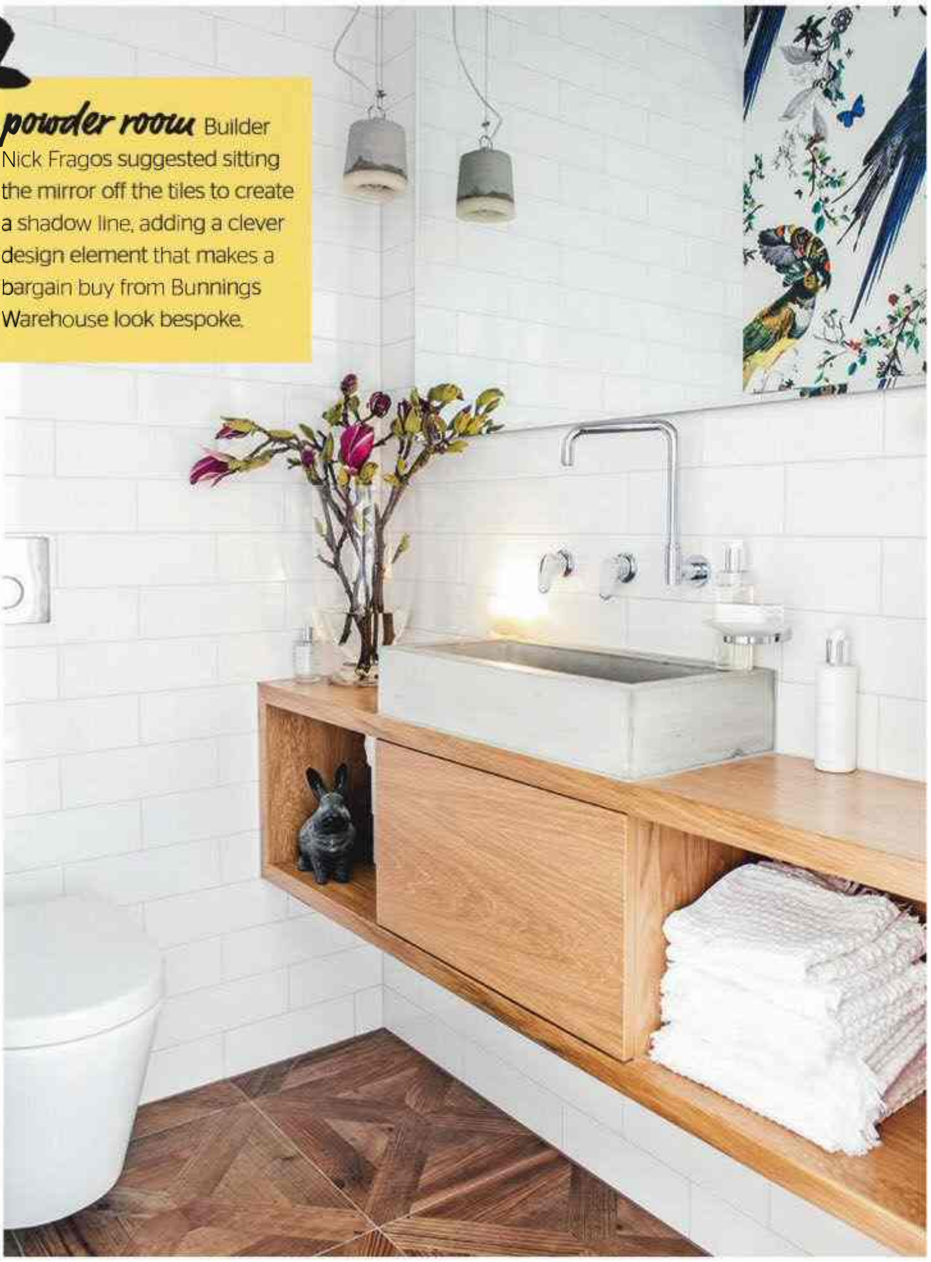
DESIGN IT.

Corinna was confident in drafting her own design, and "once it passed the critical eye of my husband, the technical drawings for the building surveyor were drawn up by my draftsperson," she says.

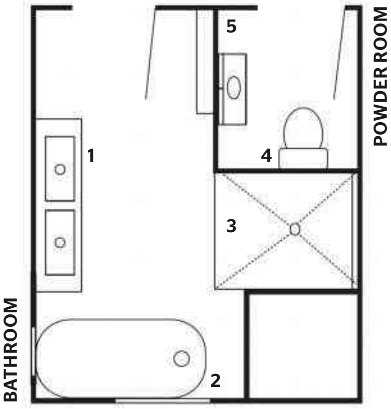
With a well-honed eye for personal style, Corinna knew she wanted a bathroom with a difference. "I didn't want a look that would date no black taps for me," she says. "My focus was on adding a sense of personality but making sure it wasn't too trend-focused."

Instead, Corinna opted for luxurious decorative elements. The star of the space is the wallpaper by artist Kristjana S Williams. "We love her art and when I discovered this wallpaper, it became the starting point for the entire look and feel for this project," she says.

Then there was a clever idea inspired by a luxury hotel on a holiday to Paris. "The bathroom had a hardwired, flexible magnifying make-up mirror with light. No more leaning over the bathroom sink to see what I'm doing a game changer," she says. "It was my personal non-negotiable from then on."



powder room Builder Nick Fragos suggested sitting the mirror off the tiles to create a shadow line, adding a clever design element that makes a bargain buy from Bunnings Warehouse look bespoke.



1. Vanity
2. Bathtub
3. Shower
4. Toilet
5. Vanity

DO IT.

Moving your bathroom across the house into a former bedroom is certainly no easy feat. There are detailed conversations about plumbing and sewer lines to have, especially for a home that's more than 100 years old. "We had to get the new sewer spur line from outside our property with about 30 metres of sewer dug in before we could commence building," says Corinna. Wrangling permits and subcontractors into place, Corinna's bathroom was almost ready to take shape in earnest.

Blessed with a brilliant builder, Corinna got down to work. "My builder, Nick Fragos from Constra, was an absolute joy to work with," she says. Splitting the process between them helped maximise her talents and Nick's know-how. "As the builder, he was responsible for all internal construction work and managing his trades. I was responsible for organising permits, all design decisions, procuring all fixtures and fittings, managing wallpaper installation, the off-the-shelf as well as custom cabinetry, and organising all external plumbing," says Corinna.

With the hardest space in the home to get right now complete, Corinna and Mark are starting to look at the rest of the house. The beauty is, no matter how messy future renovations become, they'll always have this relaxing room to retreat to at the end of the day. IO

For more on Corinna's work, visit hunter-ivy.com.au.

the best bits

- + **storage** "Finally, we have space to organise the family bathroom essentials," says Corinna.
- + **parquetry-look tiles** "These were worth waiting more than 16 weeks for, as they are so photo realistic, have texture and with very little pattern repeat."
- + **underfloor heating** "It's lovely to step onto warm tiles on a cold winter's morning. It was my husband's must-have, so he gets brownie points for that one."

1. **Painting is both** a pretty and practical way to add charm to a bathroom. The soft green tone on the walls and bath teamed with the dark door gives a chic look to the room shown here. To protect against mould, mildew and bacteria, choose a paint from the British Paints 'Clean & Protect Kitchen and Bathroom' range, which is quick and easy to apply.

2. **A fast way** to change up the way a room looks is with a coat of paint – just choose a shade that works with your home's colour palette and then turn a plain white area into a room with personality. British Paints 'Clean & Protect Kitchen and Bathroom' is formulated to give a perfect, resilient finish for interior spaces and can be wiped clean time and again.

the big easy

THEY'RE OFTEN THE MOST HARDWORKING ROOMS IN THE HOME, SO GIVE YOUR KITCHEN AND BATHROOM A SIMPLE UPDATE WITH THE LATEST SHADES FROM THE BRITISH PAINTS 'CLEAN & PROTECT' RANGE

3. **More than just** a place for cooking, the kitchen is where everyone gathers, so it's important to give it a welcoming feel. A fresh hue, such as the soft grey shown here, gives the room a modern look. The British Paints 'Clean & Protect Kitchen and Bathroom' line comes in a variety of on-trend colours as well as classic tones.

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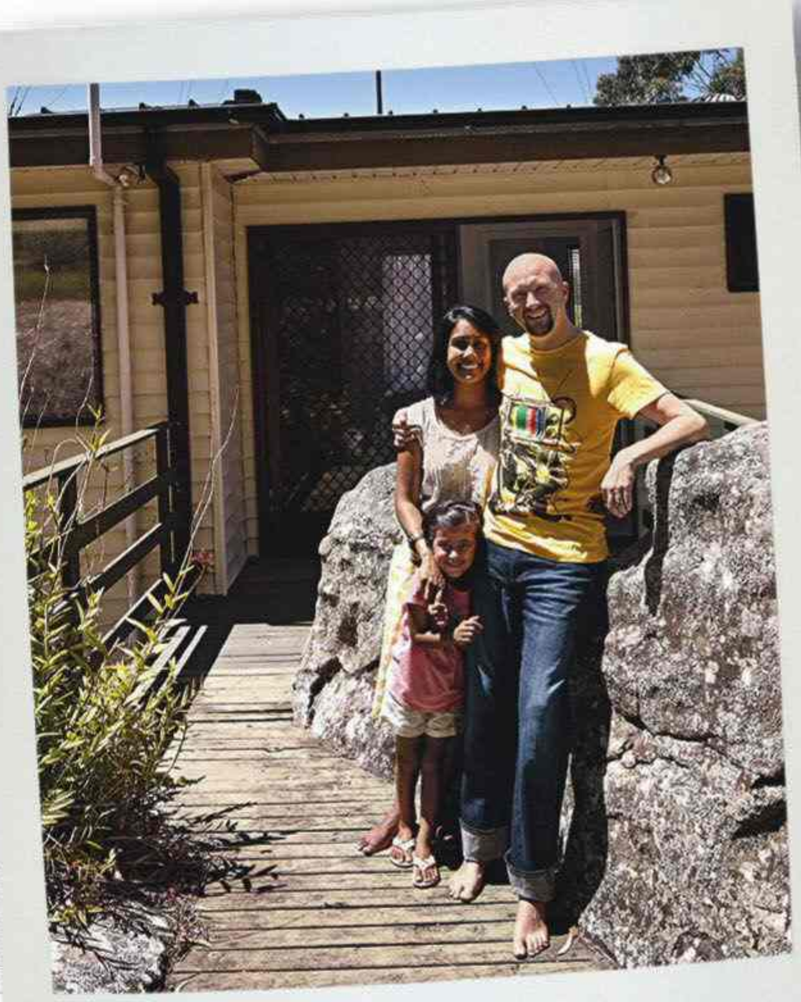
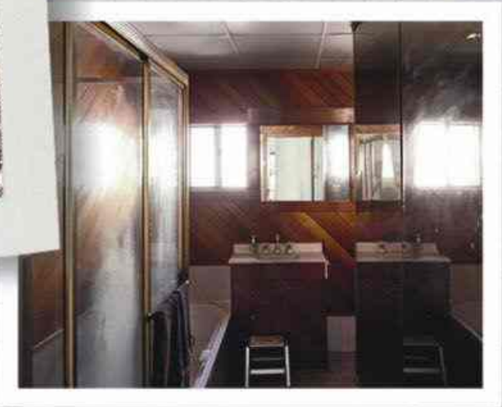


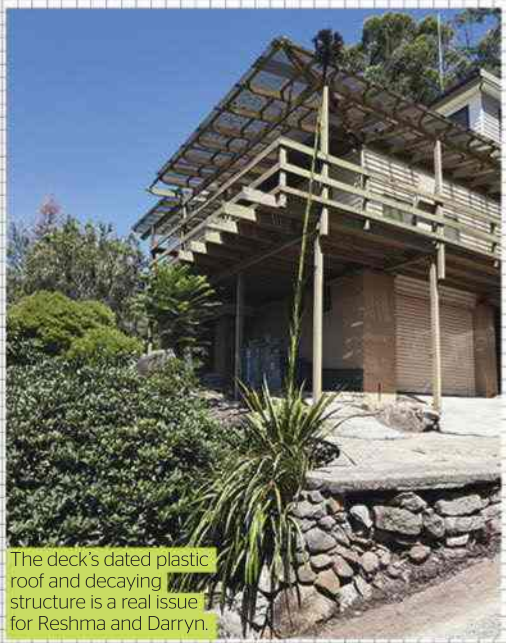
THE FAMILY

WHAT NEEDS TO GO

Here's what Reshma and Darryn don't like about their home at the moment:

- ☒ the deck it's an eyesore and potentially dangerous
- ☒ the living space needs a rethink to bring in more light
- ☒ the bathrooms need a new lease on life
- ☒ the upstairs area, home to two bedrooms, a bathroom and the laundry, is barely used





The deck's dated plastic roof and decaying structure is a real issue for Reshma and Darryn.

renovation 101

dated '70s manor

With its rotting deck, decaying cladding and tired appearance, this family home is in dire need of the Panel's advice WORDS **FIONA JOY** PHOTOGRAPHY **NIGEL LOUGH**

This living area has the potential to link with the outdoors for a more expansive space

The kitchen has great bushland views but also a dated appearance.

CHEAT SHEET

Who lives here: Reshma Prasad; her husband, Darryn Alderson; and their daughter, Navia, 4; plus two cats Izzy and Ella.

Style of house: A four-bedroom, early '70s timber-clad home on a steep and rocky 930-square-metre block.

the story so far

Darryn grew up in nearby Como, NSW, and persuaded Reshma to leave the inner city to set up home in this idyllic spot. They bought the house nine years ago and have been working on it in fits and starts ever since. The elevated position, set into a rocky hillside, makes for a fairytale setting that the family enjoys from the huge front deck.

what's not working?

The house has zero street appeal. Darryn calls it 'Death Trap Manor'; the cladding is in a state of disrepair and the green painted deck is rotten in places and roofed with dirty corrugated plastic. Access to the house is via a precipitous concrete ramp or a set of rickety stairs. Inside, the living space is small and the bathroom a shrine to the 1980s.

what do they need?

Reshma and Darryn want to sort out the access to the house, replace the deck and improve the flow between the living space and the outdoors. They'd also like to replace the downstairs bathroom and create a walk-in wardrobe off the master bedroom.

what's stopping them?

The pair are hamstrung by indecision. They each have strong opinions on the best way forward and are finding compromise tricky.

THE REALTOR

Geoff Luby
Director, Century 21 Hill & Viteri
Real Estate, century21.com.au

the market

Oyster Bay is very much a family-oriented area and buyers are primarily second-timers. Property east of the railway has been more popular over the years but, with the great jump in prices in the past year or so, prices west of the line have been pushed up. People are also moving south from the St George area in search of more affordable homes. In terms of the market, things are levelling off. The heat has come out of it in recent months. There are still buyers out there and prices are being achieved but the sense of urgency and fear of loss … has faded somewhat and the buyers aren't as aggressive.

the opportunity

Buyers are looking for a property with a minimum of three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a garage. It also needs to be close to transport links. Reshma and Darryn's place ticks all these boxes. The deck would be a good place to spend money the way the house presents now might scare potential buyers as they wouldn't know what they were in for. Also, because the block is an odd shape, landscaping would be well worth doing. Most people prefer a level block; steep driveways and disjointed gardens do put people off, but if it's well landscaped they may be willing to compromise. In the end, it all comes down to price.

THE BUDGET

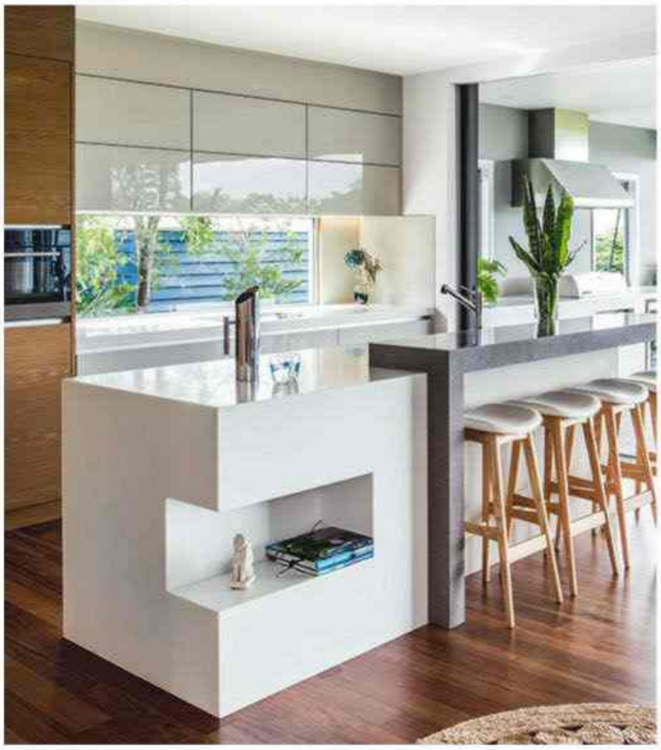
$150k

Reshma and Darryn have a healthy budget of $150k but they are realistic about how much of the total renovation this will cover.

ADVICE PROVIDED IS OF A GENERAL NATURE AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS A STARTING POINT. LOOK INTO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS BEFORE STARTING ANY RENOVATION WORK

Here are four designs that get it right

WORDS **FIONA JOY**



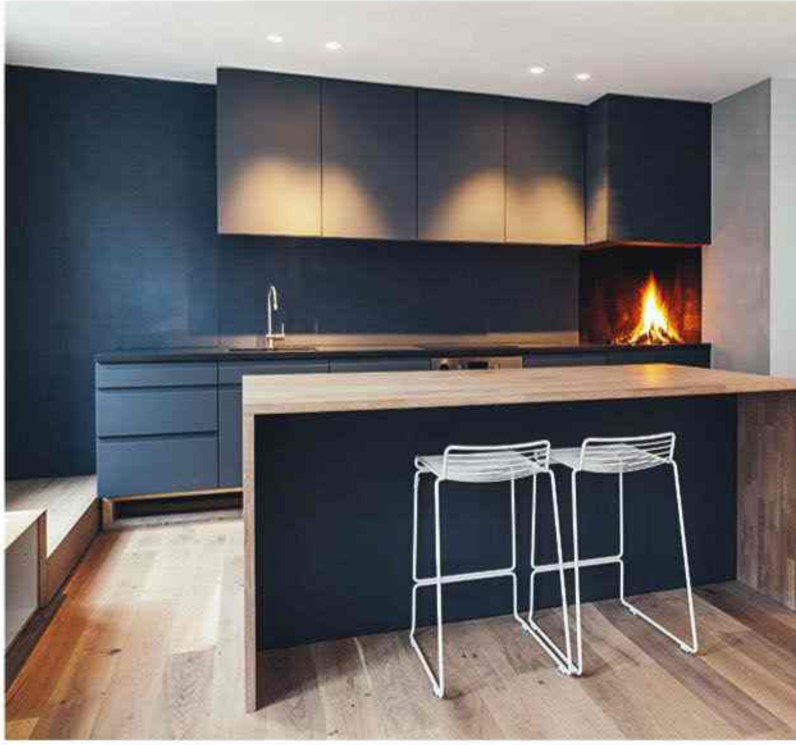
3 ENTERTAINER'S DELIGHT

It's a sunny outlook for everyone with this airy cooking zone in Brisbane

Interior designer: Darren James of Darren James Interiors (darrenjames.com.au).
Style of project: A renovation and extension to maximise the views.

This picturesque weatherboard house in the Brisbane fringe suburb of Bardon had a total renovation and extension built over the course of a year. To make the most of the home's views stretching out over a leafy outlook to the CBD, the modern kitchen/living/TV room was built with access to an elevated outdoor area with a second kitchen. **The central kitchen bench design** is two-fold the cooktop and prep zone is solid surface by Samsung Staron, with the recessed shelf area lit from above by an integrated lightbox; the dining bench sits a little higher and is made from Caesarstone. From here, the family can enjoy the breeze from the outdoor entertaining area.

Caesarstone is manufactured using 93 per cent quartz aggregates, while the remaining seven per cent is pigments and resin. It's often used as an alternative to granite but, as Caesarstone is a lot less porous, virtually unstainable and maintenance free.



4 NORTHERN EXPOSURE

A minimalist social nook that showcases refined Nordic style

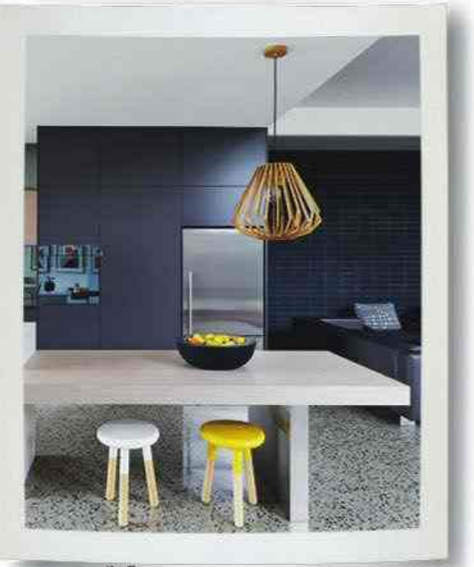
Architect: Nikki Butenschøn at Haptic (hapticarchitects.com).
Style of project: A complete overhaul and rethink of the space.

This minimalist apartment is situated on the top floor of a 19th-century building in the centre of the Norwegian capital, Oslo. This room was part of a total refurbishment project, which involved moving the original kitchen described as "tight, inefficient and north facing" into the common living area, where the architect was able to create a space that has become the social heart of the home. **A small open fireplace** has been integrated into the worktop and the cabinet fronts are painted to match the colour of the fireplace. Beautifully simple oak flooring and joinery completes the quintessential Scandinavian style. Two pairs of downlights are cleverly positioned to highlight the cooking and prep zones.

Every timber benchtop will have its own markings and character, adding warmth to a kitchen and complementing harder finishes, such as stainless steel. Nicks, scratches and stains can often enhance the appearance over time, but can be sanded back and refinished where necessary.

what's your style?

island benches



1

LIGHT

Metallics add a touch of luxe. 'Industria Skyline' ceiling **light**, $495, GlobeWest, globewest.com.au.

BENCHTOP

Join-free surfaces mean no-fuss maintenance. DuPont Corian **solid surface** in Glacier White, from $450/lineal metre, CASF, casf.com.au.

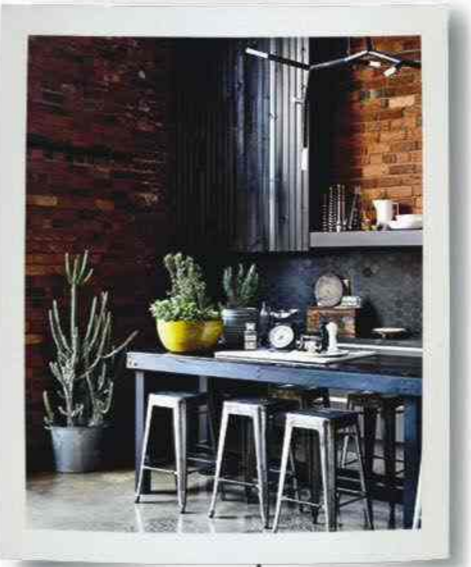
TAP

A simple design with white detail to match the kitchen. Teknobili 'Acquerelli' pull-out **sink mixer**, $637, Reece, reece.com.au.

key to success
The combined island bench and dining table creates one large entertaining area, effortlessly connecting to the living zone

STOOL

Bring some fun and a casual feel to the dining space with colour. 'Malmo' **stool**, $199, Middle Of Nowhere, middleofnowhere.com.au.



2

LIGHT

Statement lighting needn't get lost in an expansive space. 'BCAA' 7-branch **light** in Aged Brass, from $1718, Christopher Boots, christopherboots.com.

key to success
The use of black for a cohesive look, from the splashback to the central work/ dining table

STOOL

Maintain an industrial-chic aesthetic with a Tolix 'Tabouret' **stool**, from $350, Thonet, thonet.com.au.

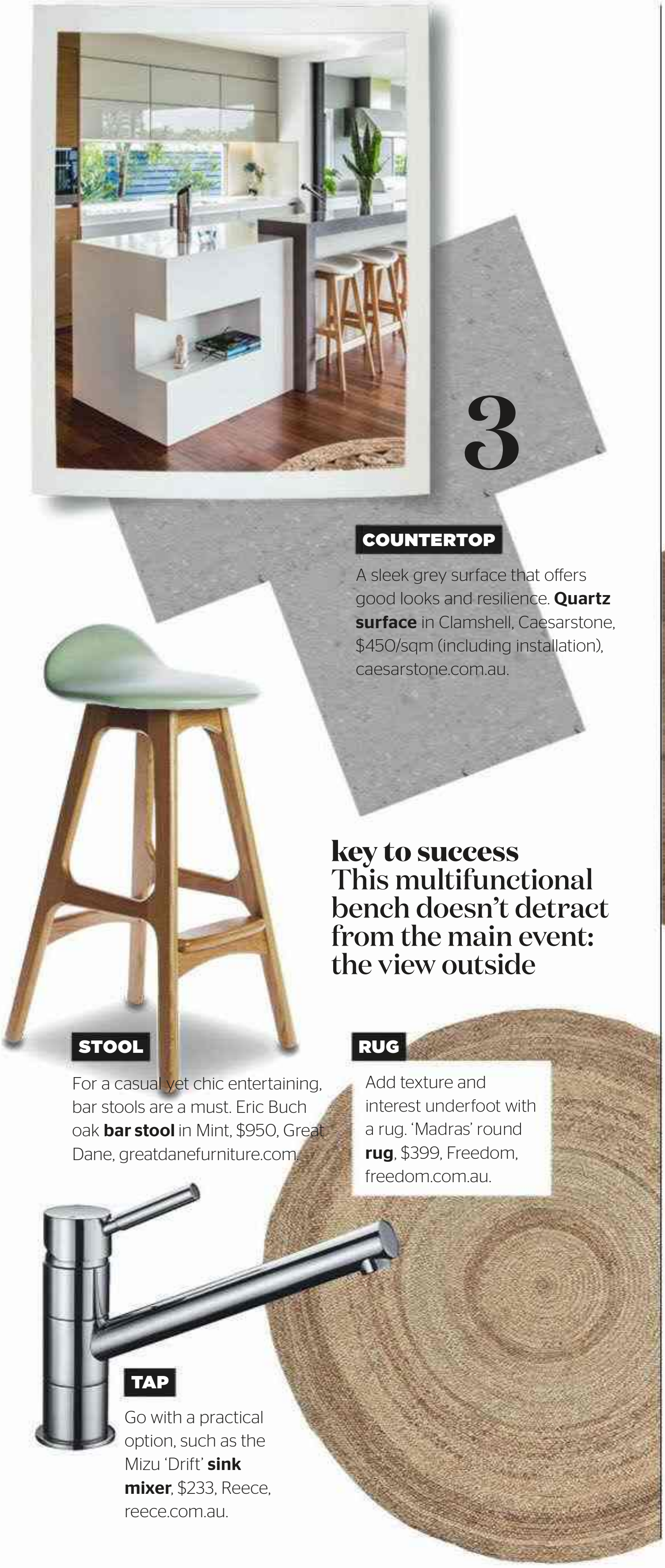
TILE

A feature splashback adds pattern. S/Tones porcelain **mosaics** in Hexagon Graphite, $310/sqm, Signorino Tile Gallery, signorino.com.au.

TABLE

The raw warmth of timber is ideal in cool warehouse spaces. 'Somerset' **dining table**, $2990, Searles Homewares, searleshomewares.com.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT) SAM NOONAN, DEREK SWALWELL, TOBY SCOTT AND SIMON KENNEDY; (CHRISTOPHERBOOTS LIGHT) CHRISTINE FRANCIS. STYLING: (THIS PAGE, RIGHT) RACHEL VIGOR. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



3

COUNTERTOP

A sleek grey surface that offers good looks and resilience. **Quartz surface** in Clamshell, Caesarstone, $450/sqm (including installation), caesarstone.com.au.

key to success This multifunctional bench doesn't detract from the main event: the view outside

STOOL

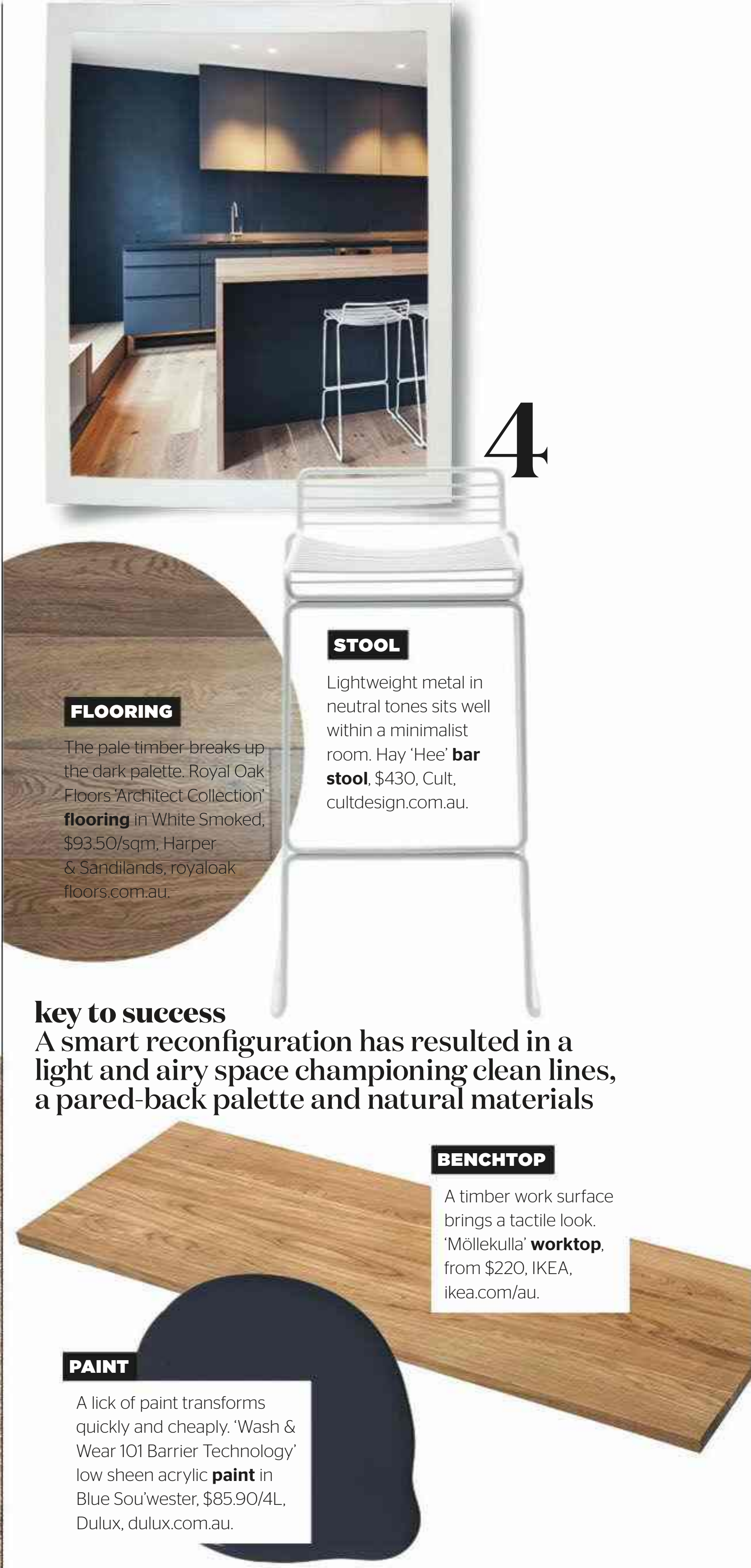
For a casual yet chic entertaining, bar stools are a must. Eric Buch oak **bar stool** in Mint, $950, Great Dane, greatdanefurniture.com.

RUG

Add texture and interest underfoot with a rug. 'Madras' round **rug**, $399, Freedom, freedom.com.au.

TAP

Go with a practical option, such as the Mizu 'Drift' **sink mixer**, $233, Reece, reece.com.au.



4

FLOORING

The pale timber breaks up the dark palette. Royal Oak Floors 'Architect Collection' **flooring** in White Smoked, $93.50/sqm, Harper & Sandilands, royaloakfloors.com.au.

STOOL

Lightweight metal in neutral tones sits well within a minimalist room. Hay 'Hee' **bar stool**, $430, Cult, cultdesign.com.au.

key to success A smart reconfiguration has resulted in a light and airy space championing clean lines, a pared-back palette and natural materials

BENCHTOP

A timber work surface brings a tactile look. 'Möllekulla' **worktop**, from $220, IKEA, ikea.com/au.

PAINT

A lick of paint transforms quickly and cheaply. 'Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology' low sheen acrylic **paint** in Blue Sou'wester, $85.90/4L, Dulux, dulux.com.au.

ready, set, fabulous

You've finished the kitchen reno and now everyone wants to have a nosy poke. Plan a big party and, with these dos and don'ts, you'll enjoy it all the more

ILLUSTRATION: YEBIN, YEBINDESIGN.KR

There are two kinds of people in life: entertainers and those who lose their stuffing at the thought of a friend dropping by for a cup of tea. If you sit in the former camp, feel free to take yourself off to the kitchen to whip up a croquembouche. For the rest of you, it's time to take a deep breath and make a plan for having a bunch of your nearest and dearest around; we're about to make the process a LOT easier.

You see, phase two of the food revolution has hit Australian homes. Family dinners have moved on from chops and three veg to paleo protein and super greens, possibly with zingy pesto. What's more, homeowners who've spent up big on their reno are desperate to host friends and family in their shiny new spaces. "People also have less time in their lives to catch up with friends," says Kirsten Jenkins, style editor at *delicious.* magazine. "It's easier to have more people around all at once, rather than cook five dinners for four. Catering for more guests means that you need to change the way you plan."

In a nutshell, entertaining family and friends should be about spending time with them, and not feeling stuck in the kitchen, so aim for as much prep before the event as possible, and remember that big plates of colourful salad are modern, fun, and easy to whip up. Here are more dos and don'ts for choosing and preparing a menu for guests.

DO

+ Veto single serves In the same way that many restaurants have moved to share plates, it pays to plan a menu that allows you to make fewer dishes. "I can imagine why people start to stress about cooking single steaks that's nearly impossible to get right," says Kirsten. "That's where the stress sets in." Go for a hero protein option, such as a whole joint of meat. That will stop the fiddly cooking process and also give your menu focus.

+ Bring on the appliances For mid-week meals, you may not bother getting out those appliances buried at the back of the cupboard, but when you have a crew coming, make the most of gadgets that save time. Get them all out at the beginning if they're on the bench ready to go, you'll find lots of different uses for them.

+ Serve hot food cold Much like revenge, there's a lot to be gained by serving food that you'd traditionally consume warm, cold. Apart from the fact that it feels as if you're eating something bigger, it also allows you to do the food prep ahead of time.

+ Consider a grazing table This caters for all kinds of guests those who are hungry and those who just want to pick. Even better, it can mostly be set up ahead of time. The key to a beautiful display is height, variety and repetition. Use upturned bowls and chopping boards to get a layered effect, along with a variety of produce, meats, cheeses, olives, fruits and nuts, repeated around the table.

+ Invest in platters If you're going to be presenting your meal either at a separate table or down the centre of the one you're eating at, it's worth investing in a couple of great oversized platters. Presentation becomes almost as important as the food, so those big items will be key to your look. Consider different shapes and colours, and layer in pattern with your napkins and smaller decorative items.

+ Think about the scene "These days, you can set up a scene, which means it's not just about the food," says Kirsten. Think flowers, servingware, a grazing table and a drinks station. You might as well show off all the different areas of that beautiful home.

+ Insta stalk When it comes to displaying food, Instagram will rival Pinterest for inspiration. It's a rich seam of beautiful food and combos.

DON'T

+ Skimp on condiments Adding a range of chutneys, dressings, fresh vegetable toppings and mustards will allow people to customise their meals, and give your setting another layer. Plus, they're often pretty in colour and texture. Decant them into smaller vessels.

+ Chop things too small "People often make the mistake of chopping things too small," says Kirsten. "When you're catering for a lot of people, you want to leave as many things whole as possible. Potatoes roast them whole. Salads, keep the leaves whole. Chopping takes time you don't want to triple the workload."

+ Limit your salads Choose three salads and maybe one other side option on the off-chance your friends eat heaven forbid gluten or carbs. "Include something that includes starchy veg, as that'll feel more substantial," says Kirsten. "Think potatoes, radish and carrots."

+ Offer too many drinks And we're not just talking consumption. When it comes to drinks, limit the choice to a couple of different options and set them up in a separate drinks area. Where possible, pre-mix jugs for guests to help themselves to. It'll stop you having to 'top up' all night.

3 tips for a stress-free catch-up with friends

from Sam Gant (right), co-founder of Pot & Pan Culinary Tailoring

Sam runs her catering company with her wife, Celeste (pictured, left).

1. Shop for the ingredients and prepare what you can the day before so on the day, you're just putting it all together.

2. Organise the table setting that morning before you do anything else; it sets the tone of any event. This also means your guests are greeted by a beautiful and relaxed setting.

3. Organise pre-dinner drinks and a cheese and charcuterie board ready for the arrival of your guests. This will buy you extra time to put the final touches to the main event.

Sam's easy Sunday barbie lunch

STARTER A cheese and charcuterie board for your guests on arrival means they are instantly treated with something to snack on. Pick a few beautiful cheeses and meats from your local deli and serve with nuts, grapes, dips and a baguette.

MAINS We love to give our guests options; less is more, but not when it comes to full stomachs!

Lamb backstrap with the fat left on (ask your butcher to do this). It's as simple as using salt, pepper, garlic and rosemary and rendering the lamb fat. The smell will be mouth-watering when guests are enjoying their aperitifs.

Rib-eye rack Cook on the charcoal grill with tarragon, shallots and butter. Mash fresh tarragon with room temperature butter, garlic, sea salt and pepper, roll up and put in the fridge. This way you can cut it off in rounds to serve (you can do this the day before). Have the rack cooking before guests arrive – this can take 45 minutes depending on the barbecue temperature.

Fish We love white fleshy fish, such as rockling. Rub in salt and pepper and cook for 5-8 minutes, depending on the size of the fillet. Make a burnt butter sage sauce to pour over the fish to serve.

SALADS **Tomato and peach** Wedges of tomato and peach with buffalo mozzarella, torn basil, a splash of white wine vinegar, a pinch of salt and a really good drizzle of olive oil – delicious and super-easy to make.

Rocket, fig, candied walnut and Meredith Dairy goat cheese Drizzle with the oil from the goat cheese and toss. The walnuts can be prepared the night before; the rest is put together on the day. No dressing is needed.

Blanched green beans with toasted almonds and lemon zest tossed with a bit of the tarragon butter. You can blanch the green beans the night before, then heat and throw on the barbie.

For more details, visit potandpan.com.au.

me & my kitchen

Seven famous foodies share what they love best about their own cooking zones

COMPILED BY **FIONA JOY**

maggie beer

I love how I can open the windows to let in the fresh air while I'm cooking. My marble-topped butcher's block is equally prized in my kitchen; it not only provides a prep space but also becomes an ad hoc bar.
My design tip Let the practical aspect be equal to the sentimental. Our kitchen is a room that goes well beyond cooking.
My entertaining tip Cooking is easier when you have bench space around you, so when I cook for guests, I clear away any clutter.
The Maggie Beer Foundation campaigns for better services in aged care. Visit maggiebeerfoundation.org.au.

rachel khoo

A kitchen has to be practical it's important to think about the function and how you're going to move around it. I hang my utensils and pots and pans, and I love curating open displays with pretty things from my travels.
My design tip Keep things within arm's reach there's nothing wrong with having a small kitchen as long as storage is right.
My entertaining tip Make sure you have the right mix of people to bring together.
Catch Rachel's TV series Kitchen Notebook London, *Thursdays at 7.30pm on SBS.*

matt preston

My favourite things about my kitchen are the amount of bench space for prepping and plating, the three ovens – including a steam oven – and loads of cupboard space.
My design tip A good electric oven that heats to an accurate temperature is a must, and great if it can run accurately at levels under 100°C.
My entertaining tip Dump serving an entree and instead make an effort with snacks and a jug of cocktails on arrival.
Find more tips from Matt at taste.com.au.

maeve o'meara

My kitchen opens out to the garden and outdoor cooking area so I have a great view and my herb garden is always being picked over for salads and dressings.

My design tip The work triangle, between sink, fridge and stove, needs to be close but not too close.

My entertaining tip The secret ingredient is you! Being organised means you're able to enjoy what you've created.

Watch Maeve on Food Safari Fire *on SBS.*

adam liaw

We have a big open-plan kitchen with a wide island bench. There are no over-bench cupboards, which means we can enjoy the windows that make the space light.

My design tip If you're planning on having a kitchen island, keep it bare – no cooktop or sink. Then guests can hang around it, chat and make drinks without getting in the way.

My entertaining tip Flip it around to make the 'party' first priority and 'dinner' second. Atmosphere is so important. Of course, if the food is good, too, you've nailed it.

Adam is host of Destination Flavour *on SBS.*

julie goodwin

My home kitchen is open-plan to the living areas of the house so I'm part of the action when I cook. My favourite thing is the table where we gather for family meals.

My design tip It's important to give yourself plenty of storage space and bench space. Allow for a second fridge and oven.

My entertaining tip It's all in the prep! Get as much done as you can before your guests arrive so you can relax and enjoy their company while they're there.

Julie co-hosts the breakfast show on Central Coast's Star 104.5.

karen martini

We're currently in the process of designing the ideal everyday entertainer's kitchen. It involves two cooking areas, a freestanding cooker and a long, deep island bench.

My design tip I would factor in a recycling area. Our sustainable and resourceful ways still leave us with food-scrap waste, so being efficient in composting is the way forward.

My entertaining tip A welcome drink on arrival and cook one or two dishes you've done before so you don't risk the dinner!

Karen's book, New Kitchen *($44.99, Pan MacMillan), is out now.*

BUYER'S GUIDE

juicers

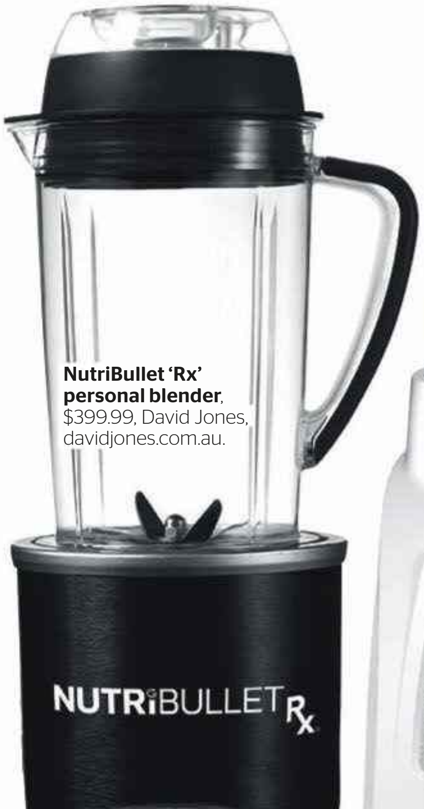
Say goodbye to the hipster who serves up your Green Goddess and hello to the latest blenders

WORDS **FIONA JOY**

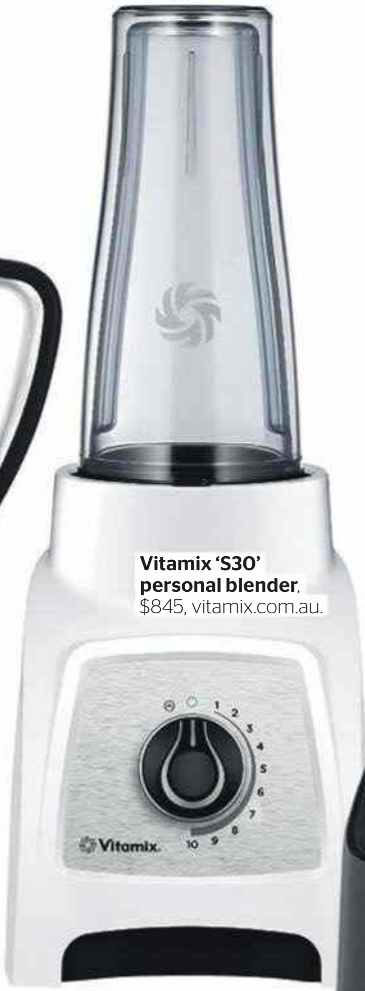
bullet

This space-savvy machine will serve up your breakfast smoothie with lightning-fast speed

Personal blenders pulverise ingredients into liquid and are great for DIY smoothies and juices. The advantage they have over a regular juicer is that you can combine the blending and drinking in a single piece of kit. Extra features include spill-proof lids, drinking spouts and a carry handle so you can have your juice to go. Unlike juicers, they don't filter out the fibre, which means the end product is more nutritious. (Some have even claimed that because you're consuming smaller particles than you would just chewing your food, they might be unlocking additional nutrients that would otherwise remain unprocessed.) Most personal blenders deal happily with berries and leaves; some are hardy enough to cope with ice and carrots. Depending on how hard you want to go, check out what's under the hood before you buy.



NutriBullet 'Rx' personal blender, $399.99, David Jones, davidjones.com.au.



Vitamix 'S30' personal blender, $845, vitamix.com.au.

Oster 'Versa' performance blender, $999, Harvey Norman, harveynorman.com.au.

Breville 'Boss To Go' personal blender, $199, Big W, bigw.com.au.

mix &go
XLBLAST
GEORGE FOREMAN

George Foreman 'Mix & Go XL Blast' personal blender, $149, Appliances Online, appliancesonline.com.au.

KitchenAid

KitchenAid 'Magnetic Drive' blender, $999, kitchenaid.com.au.

cold press

They aren't especially portable but for a nutrient-rich treat, these juicers are the gold standard

Cold-press juicers also known as slow juicers crush and squeeze to extract juice from the fruit and vegetables. They therefore don't have the problems tackling leafy greens and nuts that a traditional centrifugal juicer has, and it's claimed they produce a higher quality end product to boot; as less heat is generated by the process, all the enzymes and nutrients are better preserved. Cold-press juicers are whisper quiet (no waking up the household after your morning jog) and easier to clean, which is a blessing. On the downside, they're a little slower as the juice is extracted and there's more cost up front. But for the true aficionado, it doesn't get much better than this.

Kuvings 'C7000' whole slow juicer, $799, kuvings.net.au.

These high-powered machines are great for green juices and nut milks as they can cut through hardy leaves and nuts with ease.

Sunbeam 'JE9000' slow juicer, $299, sunbeam.com.au.

Optimum '700' advanced cold press juicer, $679, Froothie, froothie.com.au.

Breville 'Juice Fountain Cold', $279.95, breville.com.au.

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